

**Minutes  
Egremont Bylaw Review Committee  
August 19th, 2020**

Attendance:

Chet Delaney (CD), Mary McGurn, Chair (Chair) , Richard Slutzky (RS) and Eileen Vinings (EV)

A quorum being present, the meeting began at 5:01pm via Zoom video conference

Chair Mary McGurn welcomed the Committee from it's Covid19-related hiatus.

**Election of Secretary/Treasurer**

Jenn Frederick, former committee member, chose not to be reappointed to the committee and whose vacancy as Secretary/Treasurer will need to be filled. Mary McGuirn moved that Richard Slutzky be appointed to fill this position. Upon being seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the motion to appoint Richard Slutzky, as Secretary/Treasurer.

**Anticipated Work Time Frame**

Board of Selectmen meeting next set for 10/13 for special town meeting. The Chair clarified that our focus is on the General Bylaws and we will not focus on collateral bylaws including zoning bylaws. Ideally, we would like to report out the amendments to the Bylaws at the Special Town Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes from 3/10/2020**

3/10/20 minutes approved with revisions as discussed.

**Bylaw Review and Recommended Changes**

Discussion ensued regarding the parameters of our work. EV opined that we are focusing right now in terms of town governance and would like to make the Bylaws more user friendly. Committee used for its drafting work today the multicolored working documents from its March 4th meeting.

Chair noted that we have completed a review of sections 1.1 through 1.6.1; while we worked on 1.6.1, we are starting our discussion tonight with a review of 1.6.1.

1.6.1 Discussion ensued regarding annual town meeting rules of operation. There was a general desire to recognize the primacy of Robert's Rules of order as interpreted by the Moderator for the operation of the Town Meeting. Mary will discuss w/Steve Cohen for clarification. The committee tabled action on 1.6.1 until we discussed further with the Moderator.

1.6.2 EV says we approved 3/10/20 but the committee agreed to review again and CD will review and present an updated draft at the next meeting.

1.6.3 Approved before, but just moved location to this location.

1.6.4 Approved before, but we need to clean up spacing.

1.6.5 Wording needs some work, due to current legalese and reference to Mass General Laws. CD will prepare redraft at the next meeting.

1.6.6 Approved as written but with parenthetical phrase removed; CD moved approval, EV seconded. RS approved. Chair abstained.

1.6.7 CD will review language and potentially recommend redraft in light of a previous court case.

## **Bylaw 2 Elections**

2.1 Approved

2.2 Approved. Discussion ensued regarding the efficacy of term length and size of Board, but no changes were recommended.

2.3 Vacancy

2.3.1. Committee agreed to move 2.3 and its subparts to Bylaw 3 because that section refers to boards and committees.

## **Bylaw 3 Boards and Committees**

3.1 Approved previously

3.2 Changed to: "All Boards and committees shall, at their first meeting, elect officers, and give notice of such election to the Town Clerk."

3.3 Vacancies (Takes what had been listed as 2.3, 2.3.1. and 2.3.4 in most current draft from 3/4/20)

New 3.3.1 was approved as: "Each holder of an elected or appointed position shall serve until his or her successor is elected or appointed, except in the case of resignation or death."

3.3.2 (Formerly 2.2.3 under notes from 3/4/20) Committee approved a minor change adding "at a minimum"; Section now reads: "Vacancies in any position shall be posted, at a minimum, at the town hall, the town website, the library and the North and South Post Offices for a period of two weeks before the position is filled. "

3.3.3 Approved: "All vacancies shall be filled as quickly as possible after posting. "

### **Follow up items:**

CD agreed that he would work on sections 1.6.2, 1.6.5 and 1.6.7 and submit to committee for review on or before 9/4/20 and then to be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5pm via Zoom video conference.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn approved at 7:08pm

Respectfully submitted, Richard Slutzky, Secretary/Treasurer