

**January 5, 2022 Minutes
Egremont Bylaw Review Committee**

In attendance:

Mary McGurn (MM), Chairwoman
Richard Allen (RA)
Steve Goodman (SG)
Robert Sandor (RBS)
Richard Slutzky (ROS)
Eileen Vining (EV)
Guest: Lucinda Vermeulen (LV)

Chairwoman MM called the Zoom meeting to order at 4:05pm; attending members and guest were introduced.

Minutes of December 20, 2021 were approved with a minor modification.

MM noted the AG office approved the General Bylaws passed at Egremont's June 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

MM thanked Committee members who attended the January 4, 2022 BoS Meeting for the discussion on alarm permitting, permit and annual fees and a new requirement to install Knox boxes.

Bylaw 12 Alarms

12.1.1 Definitions--As used in this Bylaw 12.1, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Section 12.1.1.1 was approved unanimously as follows:

12.1.1.1 Alarm system--Any device that, when activated, (a) transmits a signal to the Police Department, the Fire Department, or a dispatch center for either thereof, or (b) transmits a signal to a person or company who relays information to the Police Department, the Fire Department, or a dispatch center for either thereof, or (c) produces an audible or visible signal to which the Police Department or Fire Department is expected to respond.

Section 12.1.1.2 was approved by a vote of 5-1 as follows:

12.1.1.2 False alarm--Any signal actuated by an alarm system to which the Police Department or Fire Department responds that is not, in the reasonable opinion of the most senior person responding, the result of an emergency.

Section 12.1.2.1 was approved unanimously as follows:

12.1.2.1 Permit Required --No alarm system shall be installed or operated until a permit for it has been obtained from the Town. The Selectboard shall prescribe application forms for obtaining an alarm system permit and for annually renewing an alarm system permit.

Section 12.1.2.2 was approved unanimously as follows:

12.1.2.2 Permit Fees -- The initial permit fee for an alarm system shall be \$25. An annual renewal permit fee of \$25 shall be due on June 30, and paid no later than September 1, of each year thereafter. A transferee of a property with a permitted alarm system must promptly make a new permit application but shall not be charged an initial permit fee.

Section 12.1.3 was approved unanimously as follows:

12.1.3 Permit revocation -- If a permittee is in violation of any provision of this Bylaw 12.1, its permit may be revoked by the Selectboard upon 10 days' notice in writing, by registered or certified mail, to the permittee, sent to the address shown on the permit.

Section 12.1.4 was approved 5-1 as follows:

12.1.4 Fines for Not Having a Permit - The owner of a property on which an alarm system is operating without a permit shall be fined \$50 and an additional \$100 every 30 days thereafter until the alarm system is permitted or rendered inoperative. If the alarm system is still operating three months or more after the initial fine is assessed, the Selectboard may, at the owner's expense, arrange to have the alarm system disconnected in which case a new alarm system application must be made and all fees and fines paid before the alarm system is made operational.

Robert Sandor left the meeting at 5:35pm following the votes listed above and did not participate in the remainder of the meeting.

Section 12.1.5 was approved unanimously as follows:

12.1.5 Requirements

12.1.5.1 Prohibited Transmissions – No alarm shall be automatically transmitted directly to the Police Department, the Fire Department, or a dispatch center for either thereof without its written consent.

After a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and voted upon unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Slutzky

