

Minutes January 19, 2022
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 4:04 pm; MM introduced members and the one guest. SG and RA joined at 4:05 pm.

Minutes of January 5, 2022

The minutes of January 5th, 2022, were approved unanimously.

Bylaw 12:

Bylaw 12.1.5.2 was approved unanimously as follows:

The Selectboard from time to time may prescribe requirements for alarm systems.

The following section was approved unanimously:

12.1.6 False Alarms; Disconnection

12.1.6.1 False Alarms--A fee of \$50 will be charged for the first false alarm, \$100 for the second false alarm, and \$200 for each false alarm thereafter. If there are three or more false alarms within a 12-month period, the Selectboard may revoke the permit and arrange for the alarm system to be disconnected at the owner's expense, in which case a new permit must be obtained and all fees and fines paid before the alarm is made operational.

12.1.6.2 Disconnection--If an alarm system emits an audible, visual, or other similar response and fails to be deactivated within 15 minutes, the Town may cause it to be disconnected at the owner's expense, either temporarily or permanently.

Although sections 12.1.2.2 and 12.1.4 were previously approved, the Committee agreed unanimously to modify these sections as written below:

Section 12.1.2.2

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 obtain a new permit but shall not be charged an initial permit fee.

Section 12.1.4

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 permit must be obtained and all fees and fines paid before the alarm system is made operational.

Sidewalks

Discussion ensued regarding the request by the SelectBoard for bylaw language assigning responsibility to abutters for snow and ice removal from the future South Village sidewalks. The Committee agreed to propose two alternative bylaws, one giving responsibility for snow and ice removal to the Town and the other assigning the responsibility to abutting property owners. EV raised the point that there are MA laws regarding snow and ice removal; RA agreed to review the state statute and case law. RA will propose language for each bylaw.

Bylaw 16 Hawkers and Peddlers, Tag Sales

The Committee discussed the need to retain this Bylaw and the possible changes to the language. ROS will propose new language for the Committee's review.

After a motion to adjourn was approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6: 01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Slutzky, Secretary