

**Minutes of Meeting of 7/6/23
Egremont Bylaw Review Committee via Zoom**

In Attendance:

Mary McGurn (MM), Chairwoman
Steve Goodman (SG), Secretary/Treasurer
Eileen Vining (EV)
Robert Sandor (RS)

Absent was Richard Allen (RA).

Chairwoman MM convened the meeting at 4:37 pm.

The Committee then considered the draft minutes of the meeting of 6/7/23. After discussion and agreement on several revisions, on motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee from 6/7/23 were unanimously approved.

The Committee then discussed next steps, including the question of whether to review Bylaws 19 and 20. The Committee reviewed the description of the Committee's responsibilities as set forth on the Town's website. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Committee's responsibilities are limited to reviewing bylaws in effect at the time the Committee was charged to review the Bylaws.

Discussion then turned to practical aspects of reviewing the entire draft of the revised bylaws. EV volunteered to review and mark up the numbering in hard copy. For this purpose, she had submitted a tentative table of contents for this meeting. MM volunteered to review and mark up the text for consistency, but asked for help from RS and SG regarding placement of terms either in a general glossary or in the section where those terms appear. EV pointed out that, to the extent that relevant state law uses a somewhat different term, the glossary should indicate that the term used in the Town bylaws is intended to mean the same thing as the analogous term used in state law (e.g., "Select Board" as used in these bylaws is intended to mean the same thing as "Board of Selectmen" in the MGL). All members of the Committee should read the bylaws for issues such as gender bias and consistency of terminology usage.

Discussion then turned to how to present the changes to the town. EV suggested that as the Committee reviews the revised draft, changes in the text in each section should be categorized as (1) format changes, (2) simplified language, (3) changes in punctuation, (4) elimination of inconsistency, (5) detail added for clarity, or (6) made substantive change.

MM then discussed the need for informational sessions leading up to a special town meeting. It was pointed out that the draft would first be presented to the Select Board and the timeline for presentation to the residents would be worked out with the Select Board. It was suggested that various bylaws be grouped into common categories for presentation to the voters (such as the bylaws governing committees and town meetings). It was considered that different parts of the

revision could be adopted at different meetings, although there were risks that some parts could be adopted and others rejected.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would take place at 4 pm on August 7.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

SG