

**Minutes of Meeting of 9/19/23
Egremont Bylaw Review Committee via Zoom**

In Attendance:

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

Richard Allen (RA) joined the meeting late as noted below.

Chairwoman MM convened the meeting at 4:08 pm. This meeting had been rescheduled from September 14.

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of August 7, 2023.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that for purposes of the Committee's discussions regarding finalization of the draft revised bylaws, the Committee would use EV's 8.5.23 draft as its reference document.

MM then asked whether the Committee wished to include a report on its progress in the Town's quarterly newsletter for October. The Committee determined that it did not wish to submit a report at this time.

MM and EV then reported on the discussion at the most recent Select Board meeting regarding whether the Select Board wished to reorganize the Bylaws into groupings such as those suggested by EV at the most recent meeting of the Committee. MM and EV reported that the Select Board was in favor of reordering the Bylaws into useful groupings and indicated support for the groupings which had been proposed by EV at the August 7, 2023 meeting of the Committee. They indicated that the Select Board would add an additional grouping for the new Bylaw 21 regarding the Town's Housing Trust and other new groupings as needed.

Finally, MM and EV indicated that the Select Board hoped to have the final proposed Bylaws on the warrant for the next Annual Town Meeting in May 2024.

Based on these instructions from the Select Board, EV volunteered that she would take the 8.5.23 draft Bylaws she had prepared and would reorganize it in accordance with the groupings she had proposed at the August 7 meeting of the Committee. She indicated that she would complete the reorganization within a few days, so that the Committee could review the reorganized Bylaws prior to its next meeting.

Discussion then turned to other work needed in review of EV's reorganized version of the Bylaws. In connection with issues of style, such as how to refer to Massachusetts General Law, MM volunteered to prepare a suggested style sheet for the next meeting. Regarding whether a glossary would be a useful addition to the Bylaws, it was suggested that in the course of reviewing the reorganized draft, each

member of the Committee should make note of any terms which the member thought should be separately defined and, if so, whether it should be a general definition at the beginning of the Bylaws or whether it should be defined in the Bylaw in which it first appears. Finally, regarding the summary prepared previously by EV of the amounts of fines contained in various sections of the Bylaws, it was felt that the Committee would present the summary to the Select Board at the time the draft of the entire proposal was presented and invite the Select Board to consider whether the amounts of the fines and the circumstances in which they could be levied were satisfactory to them.

RA then joined the meeting.

The Committee then revisited Bylaw 9 (formerly Bylaw 10) relating to the potential revocation of Town licenses. EV pointed out that Massachusetts law allows municipalities to provide for local regulation of the process for revoking a license, but that the statute (MGL Ch 40 Section 57) goes on to say that any such "bylaw or ordinances shall provide that . . ." and then goes on to provide detailed language for what the bylaw or ordinance should say. The Committee discussed whether this language raised a question as to whether towns were allowed to change the language provided in the statute and whether any such changes would be approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. The consensus of the Committee was that it should not deviate in any substantive way from the language contained in the statute. EV agreed to review the existing Bylaw 10 and proposed Bylaw 9 to see if they conform to the statutory language.

The Committee then discussed the draft revisions to Bylaws 2 and 3 provided by SG, based on certain changes and reorganization discussed at the August 7 meeting. EV indicated that she had not had the opportunity to review the changed language and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

The Committee then turned its attention to the means for presenting the changes to the Bylaws to residents of the Town. The Committee expressed approval of the format proposed by SG using the Animal Control Bylaw (Bylaw 13) reflecting the existing bylaw, the proposed bylaw and (3) the Committee's explanation for the proposed changes. It was suggested that such an explanation be provided for each of the Bylaws amended by the Committee. MM indicated that the Select Board would probably also be interested in a comparison of the existing Bylaws and the Committee's proposed draft showing the actual changes in language that were being proposed. She indicated that Adobe has a tool for providing such a markup.

In terms of scheduling, it was suggested that information sessions for Town voters be held no later than February to prepare voters to vote on the revisions at the May Annual Town Meeting.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would take place at 4:30 pm on September 14.

Because of the members' personal commitments, the Committee also scheduled a second meeting to take place on October 18 at 4:30 pm.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

SG