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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes

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Minutes need to be posted within 30 days or 2 meetings of the board – Draft minutes can be posted and revised at a later date

DEPT./BOARD: General Bylaw Review Committee

DATE: July 20, 2021

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual via Zoom

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Scott Martin; Vice Chair Phyllis Neufeld; David Miller; Wendy Guthro

Excused: Sandra MacKay

Minutes

The Bylaw Review Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Chair Scott Martin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Articles for September Town Meeting- deadline August 13

Land Use Committee Article

Scott said that Monte Pearson would like to present a revised article regarding the requirement for the Selectmen to hold a public hearing on certain projects. Monte was not at this meeting; it was anticipated that he would be presenting at the next Committee meeting on August 17.

Articles awaiting AG approval

Scott reported that there has not been a resolution yet about the articles the Committee submitted, and Town Meeting approved, regarding renaming this Committee, and regarding the number of members of this Committee. The State Attorney General's office is expected to give some direction on what changes must be made to these articles; there is the possibility of amending them from the floor during Town Meeting if necessary.

Stormwater Article

The Stormwater Article, which the Committee had approved, will be submitted to Town Meeting with the numbering changes that had to be corrected.

Article to increase notice to 90 days for bylaw articles

The Committee members reviewed Backup materials, prepared by Phyllis, for the Article that would increase the time needed for notice of proposed new or amended bylaws. Committee members made several wording changes which were accepted by consensus. Phyllis will forward the document to Scott for submission with the Article.





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Other Business

Remote Meetings

Scott reviewed the Town guidelines for holding remote meetings. He said that some members of the Committee or their family members have medical conditions that would put them at increased risk for COVID-19. The Committee will continue meeting remotely.

Sandra MacKay resignation

Scott said that Sandra MacKay will be ending her service with the Committee after the next meeting, due to her move out of Burlington. Sandra has been working on a “process flow” to explain the Committee process to those who want to propose or amend a bylaw, and she will present this at the next meeting.

Construction Hours

Dave reported on his follow-up of issues with enforcing the Construction Hours Bylaw. He said that police officers have no way of knowing whether the construction on Sundays/holidays is being done by a commercial entity (not allowed) or by the homeowner (allowed). The police may look for some kind of evidence, such as trucks with logos, or questioning people on the property. However, even if the police write a citation, it is a civil violation and the police cannot shut the work down. Only the Building Dept. can issue cease-and-desist orders. Dave said because town offices are not open on Sundays/holidays, police cannot check whether the construction work has a permit. He said that police should have access to planning board information on the off-hours, and that better inter-departmental communication would be helpful. Scott said perhaps new technology could be utilized for better integration. Dave said that no effort to re-word the Bylaw would be helpful, as it's a matter of enforcement.

New Committee members

Wendy has been sworn in for another term as a Committee member. The Town Moderator will be appointing at least three new members; they do not have to be Town Meeting members.

Approval of minutes

Upon a motion by Phyllis, seconded by Dave, the minutes of the July 20, 2021 meeting, as amended, were approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dave, seconded by Phyllis, the Committee voted unanimously at 7:56 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

