

Rowe Bylaw Review Committee  
August 7, 2018  
6:30 P.M. at Rowe Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

**Present:** Chair Chuck Sokol, Secretary Paul McLatchy III, Christopher Hyytinen  
**Absent:** None  
**Other**  
**Attendees:** James Lively

**Call to Order:** In the absence of a chair, the meeting was called to order by member Chuck Sokol. Audience member Jim Lively had expressed interest in being appointed to the committee at the Annual Town Meeting, but had not yet been appointed. This will be brought up at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

**Organization:** A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy to elect Chuck Sokol as chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hyytinen, and the vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Mr. Sokol abstaining. A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. Hyytinen to elect Mr. McLatchy as secretary. The vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Mr. McLatchy abstaining.

**Format of Bylaws:** Mr. Hyytinen questioned if there could be a format that outlines each of the bylaws, who is responsible for the execution of each bylaw, and what is the consequence if the bylaw is violated. There is a section that indicates the Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for enforcing the bylaws. Debate ensued about whether this should be made more specific (i.e. policeman, fire chief, building inspector, etc...) or leave it intentionally vague. No decision was reached.

Mr. McLatchy brought forward how the committee wanted to proceed. The previous committee (of which Mr. McLatchy is the only remaining member) went section by section, reviewing each item. Does the committee want to review the bulk of the bylaws, or get down to the nitty-gritty?

**Bylaw vs. Regulation:** Mr. Hyytinen expressed a concern about clarifying whether something was a town regulation or a bylaw. He has heard many times in conversation someone say “there’s a bylaw saying you can/can’t...” A bylaw is something that is voted on by the townspeople and legally enforceable. A regulation is less clear, and is often adopted by a board or committee. Whether these can be enforced is unknown. Making clear to the public what is a bylaw and what is a regulation is something the committee will pursue.

**Review:** The committee members each took a section of the bylaws to review and come back with suggestions on. Members were encouraged to read the entire document, however, so that they were up to speed when the topic came up for discussion.

**Voting/Formality:** The previous committee voted on every proposed change that was made. While it was painstakingly tedious and lengthy, it also meant that every detail could be logged and noted. Once discussion begins on changes, the process will be refined.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Secretary McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to adjourn. The vote carried unanimously to adjourn at 7:54 P.M.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

Approved: September 12, 2018

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*Chuck Sokol, Chairman*

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*Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

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*Christopher "Selmi" Hyytiinen, Member*