

Rowe Bylaw Review Committee
February 26, 2019
6:30 P.M. at Rowe Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

Present: Chair Chuck Sokol, Secretary Paul McLatchy III, Christopher “Selmi” Hyytinen, James Lively

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Sokol at 6:30 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Minutes: The minutes of February 19th were presented. A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. Lively to approve the minutes as written. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Updated Format: Mr. McLatchy presented a draft format of Article III which organized the bylaws by boards, rather than by the order in which they were adopted. Minor tweaks will be made, but full copies will be distributed next week.

Article III, Section 6: The Committee spent much of the meeting reviewing the list of appointments made by the Board of Selectmen, and discussed the merits of listing positions based on whether they *must* be appointed, or whether they *can* be appointed. A tentative list was reached, which will be submitted next week for a final vote.

Article III, Section 23: As the Agricultural Commission has been inactive for a number of years, it was agreed to add wording to Section 23, Subsection E (Resolution of Disputes). The phrasing “if one is appointed” will be added after each reference to the Agricultural Commission. The motion was made by Mr. McLatchy, seconded by Mr. Hyytinen, and the vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Article III, New Section: A motion was made by Chair Sokol to add a new section to Article III regarding the powers of the Selectmen: The Board of Selectmen may make additional appointments as needed if provided for by law, town vote, or otherwise, and provided those appointments do not impede on the responsibilities or duties of another elected board, committee, or officer, nor are in violation of any applicable law or town bylaw. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hyytinen and the vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Article III, Section 7: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Lively to change the last line of Section 7 to read “The School Committee shall annually appoint one of their number to serve as representative to the Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee and shall annually appoint one of their number to serve as representative to the Franklin County Technical Vocational School Committee.” The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Hyytinen to reword the beginning of Section 7 to read “The School Committee shall consist of three members, one

to be elected at each annual election for a term of three years, and shall have the powers...”
The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Article III, Section 13: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to add a new line at the end of Section 13 regarding the Park Commission. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor. The new line will read “They shall maintain all other town-owned lands designated as park land.” A discussion did occur about whether this wording would make all lands fall under the Percy Brown covenant. It was agreed that by making it its own sentence, it would not.

A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Lively to change the wording of the first line of this section to read “The Park Commission shall consist of three members, one to be elected at each annual election for a term of three years.” The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Article III, New Section: Although many sections apply to the Board of Selectmen, there is no bylaw that describes the number and term length aside from the list of elected officials. A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to add a new section with the following wording: “The Board of Selectmen shall consist of three members, one to be elected at each annual election for a term of three years.”

Article III, Section 11: A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. Hyytinen to adopt the following wording for Section 11 regarding the Finance Committee: “In accordance with Section 16 of Chapter 39 of the Massachusetts General Law there shall be a Finance Committee consisting of five members, two members of which shall be elected on each of two consecutive annual elections and one on the third annual election, each for a term of three-year. The Finance Committee shall consider all municipal questions relating to appropriations and may consider any municipal question for the purpose of making reports and recommendations to the Town. This committee shall submit its recommendations and report to each town meeting, annual or special. No member of the Board of Selectmen or the School Committee shall be eligible to serve on said committee. Members of the Finance Committee holding other town offices or positions must recuse themselves on all matters pertaining to that department. The Finance Committee shall have the powers and duties delegated to it by said Section 16 and other applicable laws including the duty of submitting a budget for the annual Town Meeting and such recommendations shall be printed on the annual Town Meeting warrant.” The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Name of Office: After much discussion occurred regarding the official titles of elected officials, a motion was made by Mr. Hyytinen and seconded by Chair Sokol to change the bylaws to read however the annual election ballot read. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Article III, Section 16: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Hyytinen to change the wording of Section 16 from “the town librarian” to “library staff”. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Next Meeting: The committee will meet Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 P.M.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. Hyytinen and seconded by Chair Sokol to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

Approved: March 5, 2019

Chuck Sokol, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Christopher "Selmi" Hyytinen, Member

James Lively, Member