

Rowe Bylaw Review Committee
March 5, 2019
6:30 P.M. at Rowe Town Hall – Meeting Room 1

Present: Chair Chuck Sokol, Secretary Paul McLatchy III, Christopher “Selmi” Hyytinen (Arrived at 7:46), James Lively

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Sokol at 6:32 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Minutes: The minutes of February 26th were presented. A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. Lively to approve the minutes as written. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Updated Draft: Draft #4 of the new bylaws was distributed to the members of the committee. References to sections and article numbers will be based on this document.

Resident Emails: Emails were received from residents Sue Wood and Russ Jolly concerning articles 6 and 11 on the special town meeting warrant next week. Article 6 involves the change of a bylaw that will allow the town to “make available” rather than deliver town reports to everyone in town. Members discussed the content of the two emails. Several members expressed disappointment over the tone of the email, which seemed to imply that the article was being pushed in a way to limit citizen involvement and ability to access information.

Article III, Section 1, Subsection F (Appointments): Members reviewed the proposed list typed up by Mr. McLatchy. A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to adopt the list as a working draft. The first column (list of appointments) will be moved into the document, and the other columns (number to appoint, term length, and frequency of appointments) will likely be forwarded to the selectmen to make a final decision on.

Article III, Section 8 (Assessors): As the Assessors may move towards an assistant assessor position rather than an administrative clerk, a motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Lively to change the last sentence to read “they shall have the power to appoint administrative staff.” This will leave it more open to flexibility. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article III, Section 9, Subsection A (Planning Board): Members reviewed the proposed wording, which now calls for an alternate member of the Planning Board to be elected. Discussion ensued about whether it would be more practical and/or appropriate for the alternate to be elected or appointed. It was agreed that Mr. McLatchy will try to attend a meeting of the Planning Board to discuss this and a few other items with them so that it’s not “coming out of the blue”.

A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to break up the last line to read as follows: “They shall approve or disapprove subdivision proposals and approve or disapprove applications for special permits. They shall make an annual report

and they may make studies, plans, including a master plan, and submit them to the Board of Selectmen and/or Town Meeting.” The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article III, Section 9, Subsection C (Public Hearings): As there is currently no definition within our bylaws as to what constitutes a public hearing, a motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. McLatchy to change the wording of Subsection C to read “The Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals shall mail notice of their public hearings to all property owners in the Town, as defined in Chapter 40A, §11 of the Massachusetts General Laws.” The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Arrival: Member Christopher Hyytinen entered the meeting at 7:46. Members briefly reviewed the emails from Ms. Wood and Mr. Jolly again to get Mr. Hyytinen’s input.

Article III, Section 5 (Parks): Mr. Hyytinen noted that there was nothing in the Park bylaw that allowed for the Commission to hire or appoint staff like there is in several other bylaws. It was agreed that some research would be done about the process used by the various boards and committees to determine language.

Article III, New Section: A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. McLatchy to adopt the following wording for a new section providing for the Municipal Light Board Plant: “The Board of Selectmen shall act as the Municipal Light Plant Board. It shall have the powers and duties as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164 for the purposes of maintaining and operating a broadband telecommunications network. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164 section 56, the Municipal Light Plant Board shall appoint a Municipal Light Plant Manager and a Municipal Light Plant Deputy Manager.” The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

Next Meeting: The committee will meet Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 P.M. As there is a special town meeting next Tuesday, they will not hold their regular meeting.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Hyytinen to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

Approved: March 19, 2019

Chuck Sokol, Chairman

James Lively, Member

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Attachments:

- Emails from Susan Wood and Russell Jolly
- Proposed Appointment List

Christopher “Selmi” Hyytinen, Member