

Rowe Bylaw Review Committee  
March 19, 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 7:40), James Lively

**Audience of Citizens:** None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Sokol at 6:39 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

**Minutes:** The minutes of March 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Process:** Chair Sokol reminded the members that at last year’s annual town meeting, a bylaw was adopted that allowed the town clerk to make non-substantive changes to the bylaws, as well as renumber them. This could cover a number of changes so that every little proposed modification need not be approved by town meeting. Any changes that do affect content will still need town meeting vote for approval.

**Article IV:** The members reviewed Article IV. A question was raised about preventing bias when it came to Section 1 (Solicitation). Chair Sokol will investigate. Other than that, no other changes were proposed for Article IV.

**Article V:** A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to eliminate the word “town” from any reference to “town building inspector”. The town currently contracts through the regional inspection cooperative for this position. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor. No other changes to Article V were proposed.

**Article VI:** The following topics were addressed under Article VI:

**Section 3 (Scenic Roads):** The wording of the MGL reference will be reordered to have the chapter listed first, but no substance was changed.

**Section 4 (Recycling):** A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to add the words “and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 §8H”. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

**Section 5 (Negligent Damage):** A concern was raised about whether this would be acceptable to town meeting. It was agreed that feedback at the public hearing would be appropriate. A motion was made by Chair Sokol and seconded by Mr. Lively to add the words “negligently defaces or...” to the first line. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor. When this is proposed to town counsel, she will be asked if there is already a general law that covers this.

**Planning Board:** Mr. McLatchy will meet with the Planning Board on March 20<sup>th</sup> to go over a few proposed changes that involve them and/or zoning changes (which are under their purview).

**General Review:** The members took a few minutes to look over the document as a whole. The committee has now taken two passes through the bylaws and made numerous recommended changes.

**Arrival:** Member Christopher Hyytinen entered the meeting at 7:40.

**Personnel Bylaw:** Mr. McLatchy raised concern about the existing “gentlemen’s agreement” that existed between the various departments about benefit policies. For example, there is nothing in the bylaws to prevent another board from granting more or less leave than the employee would typically be entitled to under existing policies. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to adopt the following wording:

“Unless provided elsewhere by law, the Board of Selectmen shall establish policies of employment for town employees. Town employees or appointees are subject to additional procedures, rules, or guidelines enacted by the board or committee responsible for that employee or appointee.”

The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

**Non-Substantive Changes:** Revisiting the subject of the clerk’s ability to make non-substantive changes, Mr. Hyytinen made a motion to make all non-substantive changes *prior* to the public hearing. This will make the proposed bylaw changes and the existing bylaws look more similar and less of a major change. The motion was seconded by Chair Sokol, and the vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

**Next Meeting:** The committee will meet Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Chair Sokol to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 P.M. The vote was 4-0-0 in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

Approved: March 26, 2019

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*Chuck Sokol, Chairman*

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*Christopher “Selmi” Hyytinen, Member*

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*Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

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*James Lively, Member*