

Rowe Bylaw Review Committee
August 16, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall

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Present: Chair Jennifer Morse, Daniel Burke, Susan Gleason, Paul McLatchy III, David Roberson

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Member Jennifer Morse called the meeting to order at 7:00 in the absence of a chair.

Organization: In selecting a chair, Mr. McLatchy nominated Jennifer Morse, which was seconded by Mr. Roberson. With no further nominations, the vote was 4-0-1 in favor, with Ms. Morse abstaining. Mr. McLatchy agreed to be secretary.

Purpose and Goals: The members discussed the reason they had agreed to be on the committee, and what they hoped would be accomplished when the work was completed:

Sue Gleason: Ms. Gleason said that she wanted to make sure that any actions taken by the committee in their work followed the letter of the law, with a transparent process to ensure that everything was above board.

Paul McLatchy III: Mr. McLatchy said that his hope was to update the bylaws to match town practices, or make sure practices matched the town's bylaws, or a combination of the two.

David Roberson: Mr. Roberson said that his reason for being on the committee was to be an effective representative of the Planning Board, which is currently reviewing the zoning bylaws of the town.

Daniel Burke: Mr. Burke wanted to make sure that the committee was clear about their purpose and to have a clear understanding about what they will and will not be tackling.

Jennifer Morse: Chair Morse pointed out that some of the bylaws are out of date. She hopes to clean them up so they are more accurate, and would also like to look into some new bylaws, such as ones involving animal control, fees, etc...

Procedure/Timeline: Chair Morse said that she was hoping that whatever proposals the committee would have would be ready by the annual town meeting. Mr. McLatchy suggested that even though it isn't required for general bylaw changes, a public hearing be held prior to the town meeting to go over the large number of changes and additions that will likely be proposed. Both the timeline and a public hearing were supported by the members.

Mission Statement: After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burke to adopt the following as the committee's mission statement:

The committee's purpose is to review all articles with the exception of Article V and the Town of Rowe Rules and Regulations and bring recommendations to town meeting for changes.

Though no vote was held on the motion, conversation seemed to show support for the mission statement as written above.

Next Steps: It was agreed to by the members that the next step should be for all members to take home a copy of the bylaws and read through them, highlighting inconsistencies, possible changes, etc... and then bring them to the next meeting.

Digital Version: Mr. McLatchy requested a digital version of the document be made available so that as the committee made changes and recommendations, they could be tracked. Mr. Roberson said that the procedure used by the Planning Board was that a change was voted by the board, updated in the digital version, and then reviewed at the next meeting. This procedure was agreed to by all. Chair Morse will ask for a digital version to be sent to Mr. McLatchy, who will be in charge of updating it with the committee's work.


Previous Work: Chair Morse presented a folder of proposed changes made by the previous bylaw review committee that never made it to town meeting. She will review them and report on her findings at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 P.M.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Burke to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: 10/4/17

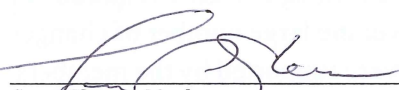


Jennifer Morse, Chairman



Paul McLatchy-III, Secretary

Daniel Burke, Member



Susan Gleason, Member



David Roberson, Member