

Wilbraham Bylaw Study Committee Meeting
July 24, 2017; Town Clerk's Office

Minutes

Present: Chair—Ed Lennon
Vice Chair—John Broderick
Judith Theocles
Anna Levine
Beverly Litchfield (Town Clerk)

Participating Remotely:
Secretary—David Sanders

Absent: All members of the committee participated in the meeting

Meeting called to order by Ed Lennon at 7:08 p.m.

Given David Sanders' remote participation and the difficulty of hearing all discussion over the telephone and taking notes at the same time, Anna Levine took the minutes for this meeting.

- I. First order of business was to vote on any committee reorganization.

David Sanders made a motion to nominate the existing officers to continue to serve in their current positions, i.e.

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Judith Theocles seconded motion. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

- II. Next order of business was to discuss prior meeting minutes. May 8 minutes still require approval but postponed to next meeting as some question regarding attendance and how to incorporate discussion with the Board of Selectmen into the minutes (incorporate by reference?). John noted that the draft minutes had him present at the meeting (which he was not) and Anna noted that she had not been marked present even though she did participate in most of the meeting (though not all, because she had a concurrent Finance Committee Meeting). Dave will review upon his return from current travels.
- III. Status of Articles Passed at Town Meeting: AG Office approved the “low hanging fruit,” Warrant Articles 49, 55 and 56. These are the Articles referencing fines and destruction of signs. Correspondence from AG Office indicates remaining Warrant Articles, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58 and 59 were “retained for further review,” and that they

will make final decisions regarding these by September 5, 2017.

- IV. Possible New Bylaw Work: Ed has heard from Town Administrator and one member of the Board of Selectmen that there may be additional bylaw work. No definite indication as to what that work might entail. October 23 will be the date of a possible Fall Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen has made no final decision on whether there will be fall Town Meeting, though the date seems firm.

The committee also discussed whether it should get started on correcting certain formatting inconsistencies in the 3 new bylaws that were not drafted by the committee, specifically the bylaws dealing with non medical marijuana and revolving funds.

There was some discussion on whether it made sense to get started on these given that they had not yet been approved. Anna favored waiting until final word came down. John noted that since the Bylaws in question were based on model language, they were unlikely to be rejected but understood the desire not to put in too much effort before decisions came down. He proposed the committee consider a general warrant article for either fall or spring Town Meeting that that would give Town Clerk authority to make non-substantive changes in Bylaws, i.e. changes relating to grammar, formatting or recodification.

There was general agreement with this idea and John indicated that he would research further. Beverly shared some sample language from Town of Heath, which had previously taken similar action.

- V. Public Comment: There was no public comment
- VI. Set Future Meeting Dates: The committee agreed that, unless it received specific and time-sensitive requests for new bylaws from the Board of Selectmen, it made sense to tentatively schedule the next committee meeting for some time after the AG is likely to issue its decision regarding new bylaws retained for further review. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 7 at the meeting room in the Police Station (Ed will reserve), with the caveat that an earlier meeting may be necessary depending on actions of the Selectmen.

Hearing no other new or old business, Anna made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Judith. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Levine