

approved
3/29/23

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

March 20, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

present: Robert Banning, Russell Collins, Richard Sasseville, and Linda Zywiec

absent: Rainer Forst

Clerk's Note: The previous minutes for this committee are of February 6, 2023. At that meeting, we scheduled the next two meetings for March 6 and March 20. On March 6 we did not have a quorum, so those present did not do business, and there are no minutes for March 6.

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1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Russell Collins.

2. Approve minutes – The minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2023, were approved as read.

3. Discussion of bylaws

a. Sections reviewed - The committee discussed the bylaws, section by section. We began with section 7-206, "Annual record required," and reviewed from there through 7-400. (7-300 and 7-400 are "Reserved.") We worked on portions of 7-500 and recommended edits but stopped without finishing because we have questions for the town manager and town counsel. We find the references to persons, sponsors, agents, permittees, applicants, principals, employees and others involved in soliciting or peddling to be confusing. Some seem to be different terms referring to the same person, but we're not sure. We think ordinary residents in town will find them difficult. We would like at some point to talk with the town manager and/or town counsel about these terms and about how they could be clarified.

b. Next step – Given how close the spring town meeting is, we decided at this point not to try to edit any more content of the bylaws. Instead, the committee authorized Bob Banning to (1) make a second complete editing pass through the portion that we have reviewed, (2) make sure that all the changes we've decided to recommend are reflected in the master copy of the reviewed bylaws (i.e., Bob's copy), (3) prepare a style sheet indicating the general style recommendations the committee is making, and finally, after completing this review, (4) send his copy electronically to the other committee members and ask them whether they agree that Bob's copy now fully represents the will of the committee. Bob agreed to do this.

5. Next meetings – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. At that time, we plan to review Bob's copy of the bylaws and decide whether it then represents the will of the committee.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Banning
clerk