

Town of Northbridge  
By-Law Review Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2017

Chairman Denis Latour called the meeting to order at 6:11pm. Present were Mr. LaTour, Jim Marzec, Lisa Ferguson, Henry Lane and Mark Key.

The minutes for the 10/16/16 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Marzec and a second by Mrs. Ferguson (vote 5-0). The minutes for the 11/16/17 meeting were approved with edits on a motion by Mr. Marzec and a second by Mrs. Ferguson (vote 5-0).

Mr. LaTour noted receiving input from the Town Clerk, from the Conservation Commission and from the Chief of Police. No other entities have provided input, and some have not yet responded. Mr. Latour is reaching out to department heads one last time to seek input.

The Chief inquired about a bylaw(s) to address pawn type operations. Mr. Marzec referred to the mass.gov site and Mr. Lane agreed that putting pawn shop regulations together for consideration is feasible. More information is needed from the Chief before proceeding.

Mrs. Ferguson raised the question of changing the way the Finance Committee communicates Town Meeting information to voters. Is it necessary to incur the expense of mailing versus the alternatives (electronic mail, posting on the town website, etc.)? Mr. Lane spoke to the historic value of the process (i.e. posting paper notices on certain doors) as be unique to the area. No action was taken on this point.

Mr. LaTour brought up the need to reconcile bylaws. Three examples are:

- Planning Board Associate Member – voted in at the May, 1990 town meeting. Mr. LaTour and Mr. Lane are to research and report back.
- Single hauler bylaw – approved by vote in 1995. This was given to the Town Manager for his opinion.
- School Committee – the number on the committee differs from bylaws

Chairman LaTour led the subject of Town Moderator authority, referring to the Charter as the start point. After discussion, Mr. LaTour agreed to approach the Moderator, seeking his input on the role.

Two other Charter related questions arose. The first inquired as to the mechanism to remove Town officials (Recall procedure is outlined in the Charter). The second question is in regard to the process to change bylaws (can changes only be addressed at Fall Town Meeting, etc.?).

The committee's next meeting is Thursday, April 13 at 6:00pm.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Key  
Clerk

*Denis LaTour*  
Chairman