

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES March 10, 2014

Attendees:

Jay Prager
Steve Webber
Mark Haddad
Peter Cunningham
Michael Bouchard

- Discussion of Chapters 205 and 273 Unregistered Vehicles
Members reviewed comments from Town Counsel. Motion was made to accept comments from Town Counsel. Vote: Unanimous

Michael Bouchard stated that the language in Chapter 273 required payment of the permit fee after the permit was issued, and suggested that since the town occurred costs during the hearing process, that the permit fee should be paid upon application. Motion was so made to change this language and passed by unanimous vote.

Michael Bouchard also asked for the Committee's interpretation of the permit renewal language, as it appeared unclear if permit renewal needed to go through a similar hearing process. The Committee voted unanimously to replace the last sentence in Section 205-3 (C) with the following "Applications for permits or renewal of permits shall be in accordance with Chapter 273 and the provisions of this Chapter."

Michael Bouchard noted that Town Counsel had indicated that the phrase ""and which is ready for dismantling or destruction" in the definition of Junk Car (Section 205-2) could create some clarity questions. He suggested the removal of this phrase. The Committee voted unanimously to remove the phrase.

The Committee agreed to defer to the Board of Selectmen preference for public hearing on Chapters 205 and 273. The Committee also stated that its preference was to include a copy of Chapters 205 and 273 in the town meeting warrant.

- Wetlands Protection bylaw (Chapter 215)
Peter Cunningham updated the Committee that , after two years of work, that Chapter 215 was being submitted to the Board of Selectmen for consideration at Town Meeting. Most of the changes are in definitions and procedures.
- Rule Loving "Letter to the Editor"
Mr. Loving had submitted a Letter to the Editor with a copy to the Bylaw Review Committee requesting the Committee address:
 - Standardized order of warrant articles, being

**** APPROVED ****

- Largest monetary articles first
- Non-monetary articles submitted by elected boards
- Non-monetary articles submitted by appointed boards
- Citizen petitions
- Boards and Committees to submit votes to the Board of Selectmen and be included in the town meeting warrant
- Any new requiring any new public works projects requiring bonding be presented at ballot as a debt exclusion questions to the voters.
- The Town Meeting Review Study Committee recommendations

The Committee had many questions, especially on the required debt exclusion suggestion. The Committee will invite Mr. Loving to its next meeting to better understand his requests.

Steve Webber asked the status of the recent DLS Management Audit of the Town and if there were any suggested Charter updates as a result. Mark Haddad stated that the audit was positive, and complimentary, regarding the Town's management. One suggestion made was to allow the town Manager to sign the warrants. Steve suggested that we compile suggested charter changes and begin the vetting process. Merging of Water and Sewer Commissions, appointment of Town Clerk and Appointment of Assessors were mentioned as having been previously discussed.

Jim Gmeiner will bring forward a recommendation regarding Chapter 190 Sewer Connections to a meeting in early April.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bouchard