

Bylaw Review Committee
Minutes of Public Meeting, Held by Zoom
March 25, 2025

Members attending: Bob McGaw, Tom Foley, Roger Read, Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Member not attending: Elizabeth Goss

7:04 PM Chair Bob McGaw convened the meeting.

1. Corrections needed throughout Bylaws to reflect the change of specified department name Office of Community Development

Motion by Tom Foley to approve the "clean up" amendment language as provided to Committee Members by Tom Foley, emailed to members and posted to the Committee's Meeting Materials webpage. Tom explained the need for the edits to conform to the change of the Town's organization, specifically the Office of Community Development no longer exists. The office has been split into the Planning and Building office and the DPW Engineering office; the edits recommended by Tom conform to these organizational changes. Roger asked if the organization changes have happened already and is there a way to make the Bylaw less "title" dependent. Tom indicated that these specific changes both need to reflect the current organizational names/titles and provide some flexibility for interpretation, which is what he hoped to achieve.

Unanimous vote on the motion to approve the attached amendment and request inclusion on the Warrant by a roll call vote 4-0-0 (Yes - Foley, Read, McGaw, Cushman). Ellen will provide the amendment as approved to Bob to forward to the Town Administrator for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant after review by Town Counsel.

2. Amendments required to make the existing Kennel Bylaw §60-205 comply fully with the new State Legislation known as "Ollie's Law", Chapter 213 of MA Acts of 2024

Motion by Bob McGaw to approve the amendment language as provided to Committee Members by Bob McGaw, emailed to members and posted to the Committee's Meeting Materials webpage. Bob explained the need to amend and timeline based upon the new "Ollie's Law". Bob indicated that he had already reached out to Town Counsel to find out whether they had drafted an amendment; they replied that they had not but would appreciate the Bylaw Review Committee doing so. Ellen stated that Belmont, at the time of this meeting, has just one licensed Kennel. Ellen remarked that she felt that some of the language imbedded in the text as proposed should be deleted from within the amendment but included within the Warrant Article describing the need for the amendment. Tom and Roger agreed. The members then went through each paragraph, subsection, editing for clarity and consistency ultimately deriving the redline amendment document attached to these minutes. Unanimous vote on the motion to approve the revised amendment, and request inclusion on the Warrant by roll call vote 4-0-0 (Yes – Foley, Read, McGaw, Cushman). Ellen will provide the amendment as a redline and final text to Bob to forward to the Town Administrator for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant after review by Town Counsel.

8:35 PM Bob McGaw left the meeting

3. Minutes of April 10, 2024 – on a motion by Ellen to approve the minutes as distributed to Committee Members and posted to the Committee’s Meeting Materials webpage, the minutes were approved, as corrected, by roll call vote 3-0-0 (Yes - Foley, Read, Cushman)

4. Select Meeting Date and time to review any amendments filed on the warrant once available. No date was selected, pending the Chair’s communication with the Town Administrator. Though there was an indication that the Town will put forth an amendment to the Revolving Funds General Bylaw, no text has been received to date.

8:55 PM Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O’Brien Cushman
Town Clerk, Ex-officio member of Bylaw Review Committee