



Plympton Bylaw Review Committee

Minutes for February 17, 2022

Deborah Sampson Meeting Room or by Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81550246316?pwd=dmgzWmxkT1d1WVlzM3JkcVBiRVRRidz09>

Passcode 969511

The meeting, having been duly posted with an agenda, was opened by Acting Chair, Dave Alberti at 6:35 PM.

Present: Alan Wheelock, Dave Alberti, Jean Cohen, Amy Cronin, Kevin Rafferty, Dominique Sampson and Ann Sobolewski

Regrets: None

1. **Minutes.** The February 3rd minutes were approved as amended.
2. **Information Sheets.** Liz Dennehy confirmed that the sheets created by our committee are now in use in the Building Department.
3. **Informational Newspaper Article.** Alan's article was published in the Plympton Halifax Express describing why Bylaws are important.
4. **Next article: The Demolition Delay Bylaw.** The Committee reviewed the article and voted unanimously to submit the article for publication in the Plympton Halifax Express.
5. **Groundwater Protection Bylaw (Alan and Dominique).** Work is continuing. Alan handed out a comparison of Rehoboth Groundwater Protection Overlay District and Chapter 290 of the Plympton By-laws aimed at protecting the aquifers and groundwater. By using this method, we can better ensure that nothing is in conflict and there's no confusion. It was pointed out that 300.8.1 and 300.8.3 that also discusses groundwater districts (instituted in 1991 based on 1987 research). It was also suggested that we loop in Brian Vasa who is really familiar with the wetlands protection and regulations.
6. **Dog Kennels, Chapter 132 (Ann and Jean).** Ann made changes and discussed those during the meeting. Should Animal daycare/training/grooming be permitted in business zones? The committee decided yes, particularly since there have been complaints about one in town, and certain restrictions could be put in place. The current location has never gotten a kennel license. It was made clear that we want to encourage home businesses and don't want to put them out of business. The definition of "dogs/breeding/sale" will be replaced by "kennel". In the zoning, there's animal daycare and the new word "kennel". Kennel indicates personal animals (hobby kennel); commercial kennels are not allowed in town. Chapter 135, Dogs, lists all the types of kennels; zoning would permit/not permit certain types of kennels. A cross reference from General (all kennel types as defined by the State) will be made to reference kennels in Zoning to note that all the different types are not allowed in town. In general, a "kennel license" can be obtained for \$30/year versus \$7/dog, which individually could be more expensive. Work will continue.

7. **Retreat lots and retreat lots §300-5.8 (Kevin).** Work has been completed.
8. **Bylaw to Promote Clear Marking of Driveways.** Kevin initiated discussion regarding his talk with the Fire Department noted difficulty of identification of properties as in some cases, there are no markings. It was noted that this is currently a law: Massachusetts General Laws C. 148, S. 59. specifies that every building in the state must have clearly visible address numbers posted.
9. **Railroad area zoning.** This will be a warrant article, and the map will be provided.
10. **Setback definitions in §300-5.1 through 300-5-7 (Amy).** No new work.
11. **Warrant Articles. Warrant articles that we will be submitting include the following:**
 - BOH penalty structure, a new (D) in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article II;
 - General Bylaw changes to Section 135 Dogs and Zoning Bylaw Table of Uses;
 - Multiple warrant articles to correct scribes/technical errors and miscellaneous;
 - a retreatment lot enhancement warrant article;
 - railroad zoning map;
 - retreat lots;
 - groundwater protection (possibly)
12. **Parking Lot Items:**
 - Sprinklering houses greater than 3000 ft²; and parking regulations.
 - Do setbacks apply to tennis courts, swimming pools – do they count as a structure?
 - There are some zoning terminology changes (like light manufacturing versus light industrial which is supposed to be the same thing).
 - Animal Control Officer. We have an agreement with the Town of Carver that we share their Animal Control Officer. There is no entity that will inspect a property when a kennel is being proposed. It was questioned if the barn inspector (Brian Kling) could also inspect for kennels; he inspects 100+ pigs, cows, chicken coops, all animals, etc. It was discussed that Brian Kling noted that he didn't have the proper tools to perform the job (canine catching tools, tranquilizer gun and gun for injured deer, etc.). A job position with tools provided is needed. It's possible a student in the ag program or 4H could be a future candidate. This could be a project to pass on to the Town Administrator, Liz.
 - Solid Waste and Illegal Dumping Bylaw
 - 300-6.3 Trailers/mobile homes (Kim)

Next Meetings: The next scheduled meetings are Thursday, March 3rd, March 17th and April 7th. The Committee's regular meeting schedule is the first and third Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chair, Alan Wheelock at 8:00 pm. These minutes are respectfully submitted by Amy Cronin.