

**Plympton Bylaw Review Committee**

Minutes for January 6, 2022

Deborah Sampson Meeting Room

The meeting, having been duly posted with an agenda, was opened by Chair, Alan Wheelock at 6:39 PM.

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

**Regrets:** Kim Russo and Jean Cohen

1. **Minutes.** The December 2nd minutes were approved as written.
2. **Resignation.** Kim Russo will be resigning. The Committee appreciates her service and is sad to see her go.
3. **Deadlines.** The deadlines for warrant articles are typically March 31st.
4. **Enforcement.** There was discussion about the lack of enforcement in town. It was noted that the Zoning Enforcement Officer also resigned. Additionally, even Town Counsel put forth road blocks to the handout information sheets. On January 20th, lets create a concrete plan to bring forth. It was brought up that the current situation of non-enforcement won’t always be the case, and the Bylaws need to be ready for enforcement.

It was suggested that a newspaper article could be written to highlight a particular section where there are violations, specifically the Dark Sky Visibility rules in the Bylaws, Section 300-6.9, Lighting Systems and Fixtures. Allan and Amy will draft an article for consideration for the Halifax Plympton Express and bring to the next meeting.

1. **Railroad area zoning.** Dave Alberti met with Liz Dennehy, Town Administrator and got input about how to change the railroad area zoning from light industrial to ag/residential. A simple map needs to be drafted and distributed to the 11 affected property owners, post on the Town website and to distribute to the Old Colony Planning Council and surrounding towns. One option is to have the Planning Board sponsor the warrant article.
2. **Retreat lots and retreat lots §300-5.8 (Kevin).** Kevin spoke to members of the Board of Health and they have no concerns with the current retreat lot bylaws. Upon review himself, Kevin noted that there could be some areas of improvement regarding underground utilities (aesthetics and downed power). Allan will work with Kevin to prepare the warrant article.
3. **Groundwater Protection Bylaw (Alan and Dominique).** It was noted that Plympton has 13 pages of water protection and 64 pages long for the regulation. The subcommittee will review these materials and compare it to Rehoboth’s groundwater bylaw.
4. **Dog Kennels, Chapter 132 (Ann and Jean).** Ann is working on drafting the warrant.
5. **Setback definitions in §300-5.1 through 300-5-7 (Amy).** Amy proposed definitions and regulations found in other towns. Amy will continue to review Wellesley and Concord’s regs in sections 6.2.1 through 6.2.8. Section 6.2.10 has rules to avoid plants causing obstructions in the sight line when driving. Do the numbers still make sense? Where did they come from? What if there’s a corner lot?
6. **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 scribners/technical errors and miscellaneous;
* a retreatment lot enhancement warrant article;
* railroad zoning map;
* groundwater protection

1. **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, January 20th and February 3rd. 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 Alan Wheelock at 7:50 pm. These minutes are respectfully submitted by Amy Cronin.