



Plympton Bylaw Review Committee

Minutes for September 7th, 2017

6:30 PM, Small Meeting Room

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

Committee Members Present: Jean Cohen, Linda Leddy, Ann Sobolewski, Ted Taranto, Ken Thompson, Dave Alberti, and Alan Wheelock

Regrets: Amy Cronin and Kimberly Russo

Guests: Mark Russo, Selectman, and Richard Bowen, outside counsel

- 1. Minutes Approval.** The minutes from the 08—17- 17 were accepted with no amendments.
- 2. Outside Counsel Discussion.** As planned, Richard Bowen, Esq. joined the Committee meeting to take general questions from our members pertaining to legal review of proposed changes to the town's by-laws. Alan provided a brief overview of the history, goals and objectives of the Committee, which was formed early in 2017.

Rich Bowen provided an overview of his extensive background in the legal requirements pertaining to municipal by-laws in Massachusetts, including:

- He has worked with 120 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.
- He has served in town government.
- He has worked with the Town of Plympton in the past.
- The highest and best use of his guidance, he said, would be in the areas of prioritization, public outreach and education on the manner in which local by-laws relate to and are governed by Massachusetts General Laws, and insights into the experiences of other South Shore towns in updating their by-laws.

Attorney Bowen also highlighted the importance of aligning the By-law Review Committee's efforts with MA GL 40U, which specifically pertains to the enforcement of local zoning and municipal by-laws. He suggested taking a step-by-step, incremental approach to updating and modernizing the Town's By-laws, rather than attempting to address the entirety of needed updates all in the same year. He expressed support for the by-law codification project currently underway under the direction of the Town Clerk.

3. Bylaw Review. Due to the extensive time dedicated to discussions with Attorney Bowen, the Committee's work on detailed, electronic, review of the existing Plympton By-law document remained completed through §2.2.2.2.

Next Meeting: Thursday 09/21/17 at 6:30 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Alan Wheelock at 8:35 pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Alan Wheelock.