



Plympton Bylaw Review Committee

Minutes for January 11, 2018

6:30 PM, Small Meeting Room

The meeting, having been duly posted with an agenda, was opened by Chair, Alan Wheelock at 6:32 PM.

Committee Members Present: Dave Alberti, Jean Cohen, Linda Leddy, Ted Taranto, Kimberly Russo, Ken Thompson and Alan Wheelock.

Regrets: Amy Cronin, Ann Sobolewski

Guests: Town Administrator, Elizabeth Dennehy, and Tom Millias, Building Inspector.

1. Minutes Approval. The minutes from the 12-07-17 meeting were accepted with no amendments.

2. Outreach to Town Departments. Town Clerk Tara Shaw continues to distribute the By-law Review Committee Newsletter, to all Boards, Committees and Departments. Newsletters #1 and #2 have already been distributed, with #3 slated to go out during the week of January 15th.

3. Visit by new Town Administrator, Elizabeth Dennehy. Plympton's newly hired Town Administrator, Elizabeth Dennehy, joined the meeting and stayed for its entirety. Committee members all introduced themselves to Liz and were very pleased to learn that she has had extensive experience in helping to implement improvements and changes to By-laws in other communities in Massachusetts. She is very supportive of the Committee's efforts and offered to help shepherd draft warrant articles coming out of the committee through legal review, Planning Board input and hearings, and public information initiatives. She stated that she thought that the By-law Review Committee Newsletter – currently being produced twice a month and distributed throughout Town Government – was very good. She suggested that the content of the newsletters could gain broader distribution through the use of the Town of Plympton Website and possibly social media. She offered to assist the committee in gaining access to those additional avenues for outreach and information distribution.

4. Visit by Building Inspector Tom Millias. Tom Millias, the town's Building Inspector (and also current Chairman of the Halifax Board of Selectmen) joined the meeting at our request and provided the Committee with his feedback on our draft Warrant Article that covers Section 2.1 of the Zoning By-law, entitled **Enforcement**. The Committee has drafted extensive updates and clarifications to Section 2.1, and Tom stated that he thought that the new suggested language was excellent and would prove to be very helpful to the Zoning Enforcement Officer. He also thought that the Committee should consider strengthening the language in the draft by adding language similar to a zoning article that was recently submitted to a town meeting in Halifax. This suggested language would clarify the definition of an owner of a property, given that ownership has a foundational impact on zoning law enforcement. It can be particularly relevant

in instances of foreclosed properties. The Committee agreed to take Tom's recommendation into consideration for inclusion into the final draft of the Enforcement warrant article.

5. Vote to Commence Legal Review of draft Warrant Articles. Committee members voted unanimously to begin the process of bundling and submitting draft warrant articles for legal review. Town Administrator Liz Dennehy offered to facilitate this for the Committee.

6. Standing Minutes Item: Long-term plan for warrant submission. The long-term plan is the following:

- Work with and refine each draft warrant article until the committee is completely satisfied that it represents our recommendation to town meeting.
- Submit the finalized drafts for legal review.
- Once legal review is completed, meet with the Planning Board and other boards impacted by each suggested By-law change.
- Integrate the legal and department level feedback.
- Schedule and deliver public information events.

Next Meetings: Meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Alan Wheelock at 8:23pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Alan Wheelock.