



Town of Plympton
By-law Review Committee
Newsletter

Number 3
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Despite a very cold holiday (and busy) season, the By-law Review Committee is continuing its important work of developing proposed improvements to Plympton's zoning laws, and it is expected that several warrant articles will ultimately be ready to present to the 2018 Town Meeting – which will take place in May.

As you may remember from our previous newsletter, Plympton's By-laws are divided into two distinctly different sections: a) **Zoning By-laws** and b) **Municipal By-laws**. The **Zoning By-law** component is broken down into ten "Sections", and the **Municipal By-laws** are broken down into thirty different "Articles."

The **Zoning By-law** section of Plympton's document focuses on things like enforcement, use districts, allowed uses, minimum lot sizes, signage, site plan requirements, flood plain districts, and groundwater protection regulations. At the moment, the By-law Review Committee is focusing on this section of the laws, but we fully expect to review and work on the **Municipal By-laws** as time goes on.

One of the Committee's draft warrant articles focuses on Section 2.1 of the current By-law, and which is entitled "*Enforcement*." The current version of Section 2.1 is just two paragraphs in length. Very simply, it stipulates that:

- The Zoning By-laws shall be enforced by a Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO).
- The ZEO shall be appointed annually by Board of Selectmen and report to the BOS.

- The ZEO must act to enforce Zoning By-laws if requested in writing to do so.

The Committee believes that Section 2.1 is quite important, and that it can be clarified and expanded in a manner that will be helpful to the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Selectmen, and the community at large. To that end, the Committee has worked hard to develop a longer, more detailed version of Section 2.1 for consideration by Town Meeting. It is also important to note that the development of the new Section 2.1 has been closely coordinated with Plympton's Zoning Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector. The new, draft version of Section 2.1 stipulates that:

- ZEO can and should initiate civil or criminal action if necessary
- ZEO can initiate non-compliance fines of up to \$300 per day
- ZEO shall respond to written enforcement requests within 14 days
- ZEO is required to maintain a record of all zoning permits

This expanded version of Section 2.1, *Enforcement*, also lays out a detailed permitting process, which the Committee believes will be helpful to the ZEO, the Building Inspector, the Selectmen, and other town departments.

The By-law Review Committee meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Town House – starting at 6:30 PM – residents are welcome to attend!

Thank you.

Alan Wheelock - Chairman Plympton By-law Review Committee