



Bylaw Review Committee Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Eric Grund, Chair; Rachel Rivkind, Vice Chair (via Zoom);
Members: Fred Freeman, Thomas Coogan, Joan Kuhn

Invited Guests: Gregory Satterwhite; Cathy Harder-Bernier, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Grund at 7:04pm in the Hearing Room

The minutes of the December 11, 2023, meeting were approved by the Committee.

Mr. Grund invited Mr. Satterwhite to present his bylaw proposal to the Committee. Mr. Satterwhite stated that he is a member of the Advisory Committee and is interested in processes, which is why he is proposing a bylaw that would restrict any registered Hanover voter from holding more than one elective office simultaneously. In his research (using software available through the State called Ecode 360) he found that many Massachusetts towns have a bylaw like the one he is proposing. His proposal uses the phrase "any registered Hanover voter," as opposed to any Hanover resident. As one example Ms. Rivkind pointed out that Hanover Bylaw 4-25 uses 'resident of Hanover'. This led to a discussion of the appropriate term. Ms. Harder-Bernier was invited into the discussion to discover if she knew of any specific legal term that must be used. In her many years in town government, and as Town Clerk she stated she was only aware of one challenge to the term "resident" put forth in a Bylaw. After much discussion, the proposed bylaw was agreed to by the Committee as submitted.

Mr. Grund then moved the Committee to discuss how to make changes to the existing bylaws, as to what is allowed and not allowed. Ms. Harder-Bernier was invited to join the discussion and offer her expertise. In general, she suggested that the Committee begin with the easier fixes, i.e., changing of pronouns, correct titles for committees, etc. She thought the last time major changes were made to the General By-laws was in the mid-2000's. She did state the Planning Board is in the process of updating the Zoning Bylaws and there is budgeted money available for use for bylaw updating. She mentioned that the Assistant Town Manager is working with the Planning Board on their updates to the Zoning Bylaws. She also suggested reaching out to MaryAnn Brugnoli, Chair of the Planning Board.

Considering the discussion with Ms. Harder-Bernier, Mr. Grund suggested we invite the Assistant Town Manager to a future committee meeting, and all agreed. He also said he continued to pursue talking to the Town Counsel regarding this matter.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7pm. Additionally, the Committee agreed to the following dates for future meetings on Tuesday's at 7pm: March 12 and April 16. The latter will be a public meeting to present the General Bylaws that have been approved to appear on the Warrant for the May Town Meeting.

A motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm

Respectfully submitted: Joan Kuhn