



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 6:00 PM
In Person & Virtual Meeting

Committee Attendees

Emmanuel Dockter	Steve Freedman
Sandy Hayes	Jim Hoyes
Joan Port-Farwell	Greg Satterwhite
Gavin Little-Gill	Gerry O'Hearn

Residents At Large

Mike Cianciola	Doug MacLellan
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Other Attendees

Joe Colangelo, Town Mgr.	Chelsea Stevens, Finance Dir.
Eric Grund, Chair Bylaw Review Committee	Cathy Harder-Bernier, Town Clerk

Chairman Dockter called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. There were 8 members present.

There were no public comments.

The Chair asked if everyone had enough time to review the minutes from 2/16/22. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved 2 members abstaining because they were not at the meeting.

Chairman Emmanuel Dockter asked if there was anyone on zoom from the Transfer Station Committee. No one was on, so Emmanuel moved to the next agenda item.

Chairman Dockter welcomed the Bylaw Review Committee. There were total of 4 members present including Chairman Grund, Rachael Rivikind, Joan Kuhn and Fred Freeman. Eric shared that there are four (4) general bylaw amendments for the upcoming town meeting. He wanted to take a few minutes to go through the process they go through for each article. The committee went through their process for all 4. The process is:

1. Sponsor introduces the bylaw change to the committee
2. Language is finalized by committee with the sponsor over several meetings.
 - a. Original

- b. Bylaw edited – language proposed with bylaw review committee edits.
 - c. Final Language in Article on Warrant Article
3. Town Counsel approves the language.
 4. Article is added to the Warrant for Town Meeting

Eric reviewed the 4 Bylaw articles starting with name of the article, what the changes are and who is sponsoring this article. All 4 articles are amendments to bylaws not new bylaws.

Article 15 – Amend Town Manager Act Name Change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board

Eric provided the Original, Bylaw, then the Edited Version and Final Version.

Before Eric continued to the 2nd article he asked the committee if they had any questions.

Question – Can your committee say, no? Our role is not a yes or no; our role is to really make sure the language is correct as far as we can we get all the stakeholders involved. We are getting a proper bylaw and meeting the requirements. All of these have been introduced by town staff. We are in no way opinionated or bring our opinions into the process properly. We are just the bylaw review committee making sure it is structured appropriate to come before you and the town.

Questions – Your committee doesn't vote on any of these? Do you mean voting on the language? Our role is to make sure it is appropriate language and key stakeholders are satisfied with the job we have done. We don't vote on anything. It is purely a process.

The chair asked if there were any additional questions on the first article.

Article 18 - Adjust Annual Election date to the Saturday 12 days after the first Monday each year.

Eric provided the Original Version, Bylaw No Edits and Final

There were no edits. The original language was great!

Question – If for some reason the town meeting does not approve this article does it revert to what we have done in the past? Yes! **Question** – Does it take effect immediately or the following year? Yes, the following year.

Articles 19 – Transfer Station Violations and Enforcement

Eric provided the Original, Bylaw Edited and Final

Question – If somebody outside of Hanover is in the Transfer Station and they drop something that isn't allowed, say there are from out of state, does this apply to them? Rachel had asked this question at an earlier meeting and she was told that it happens way more infrequently than she thought it did. It's the law within the town, so it doesn't matter who it is. The police wanted to be able to issue somebody a fine.

Article 21 – Mandate Video Recording of All Public Meetings

Eric provided the Original, Bylaw Edited and Final

Question – Was there any consideration given to adding some qualifier that in-person is preferred vs virtually for board members? We didn't really discuss that preference.

Question – In terms of the public record, are meetings posted immediately or are they held somewhere and then if someone wants them they ask? Public records are defined under

Massachusetts Law. When it came back to us it came back with the qualifier adding Hanover Community Television

Questions – Part 1 remains the same. Must be a resident. I’m assuming somewhere we have a definition of “resident”. The reason I am asking is if it is all virtual and you never come to a meeting you could live here a month and then be on a committee where you have never actually attended a meeting live.

Chair Dockter asked if there were any additional questions. There were none. Emmanuel thanked the Bylaw Committee for their work.

Chair Dockter introduced Town Clerk Cathy Harder-Bernier. Cathy shared a PowerPoint presentation. In her presentation she shared:

- Accomplishments
- Request to Reinstate Staffing Levels
 - **Question** – Are you worried about being able to hire enough workers for elections? She was hoping it won’t be a problem.
 - **Inquiry** - If we use ARPA funds for staffing, we need to think what happens after ARPA. We need to think long-term.
 - **Question** – Are you using tax work off as a means to support your staffing needs. She has 4 tax-work off residents.
 - **Question** – Can tax work off also work elections. Yes, they can.
 - **Question** – Your hours and Mimi’s hours, what is the reason for additional staff? Cathy shared unregistered dogs, rabies certificates from veterinaries.
- Warrant Articles – 6 & 18
 - Salary Article – She is interested in a 7% increase.
 - Article 18 – Changing Election Date to 12 days after the first Monday of May each year.
 - Cathy shared the reasons she was asking for this change.
 - Continuity of Government when Town Meeting spills over to the next week.
 - Avoids an election on an override that has not been debated at Town Meeting the week before
 - Allows election workers and Town Clerk staff adequate time to manage the records of Town Meeting activities prior to the run-up to the Town election.
 - Avoids potential conflict between Early Voting and Town Meeting if legislature increases EV requirements for local elections.
 - **Question** – Are there state requirement? No
 - **Question** – Why 12 days after the first Monday? Printed ballot.

Chair Dockter asked if there were any additional questions. There were none. Emmanuel thanked Cathy for her presentation.

The Chair reminded the committee that there are 4 meetings left – 3/16, 3/30, 4/6 and 4/13. At the next meeting the committee will hear from the Transfer Station Review Committee and CPC .The committee will then have time to go over all the Warrant Articles. At the March 30th meeting the committee will need to move forward with commentary. This year the town is going to use a printer for printing the warrant and 4/13 is the committee’s deadline to submit commentary for printing.

Chelsea shared that she has answers that she owes the committee.

The Chair shared that there is no need to meet with South Shore VoTech.

Our next meeting will be next Wednesday, March 16th at 6 PM. The presentation will be Transfer Station Review Committee, CPC and review of Warrant articles

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.