

Charter & Bylaw Review Committee Meeting  
Draft Minutes for Monday, January 22, 2018  
Natick Town Hall Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room

Meeting posted in accordance with MGL requirements.

Attending: Carol Gloff, chair; Richard Sidney, vice-chair; Alan Grady, Harriet Merkowitz, Alan Rosenman; and Catherine Schellenberg.

Absent: Cathy Coughlin

Members of the Public: Jim White, Director of Health Department

7:05 pm: Meeting called to order by Ms Gloff.

Status of review of Town Meeting Handbook: Mr. Sidney received info from Ms Coughlin regarding other towns' handbooks. He has not yet fully reviewed the material or begun a new draft. Ms Gloff raised this topic with Frank Foss, Town Moderator, who is not expecting such a time-consuming project could be completed before this committee's term shall expire. With changes in technology, perhaps the whole format of the handbook should change. Properly updating the handbook shall have to await a future committee or sub-committee.

Review & approval of minutes: Approval of minutes for January 11, 2018. Motion made by Mr. Rosenman, second by Ms Merkowitz. Approved 4-0-1.

Citizens' Concerns: None.

By-law Article 51: Clarification of difference in materials e-mailed committee (the version without red-lining was what was voted at the fall Town Meeting, the version with red-lining had the changes Ms Gloff was proposing we adopt). Questions regarding responsibility of residential owners of alarm systems with a central station, and consequences of non-compliance with by-law (providing the Natick Police Department with call list). Proposed changes met with general approval.

Town Moderator & Town Clerk have requested that changes under a single article for the upcoming spring Town Meeting be gathered in one motion, which Town Meeting may then choose, or not choose, to break into separate motions. Although our articles before the fall Town Meeting passed in an efficient manner, we can understand this could simplify the process after Town Meeting ends and the paperwork for the state Attorney General & town records begins.

Motion to approve changes to By-law Article 51 as proposed by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Grady, 6-0-0.

By-law Article 76: Steve Evers, Historical Commission Chair, shall be attending our next meeting. Ms Gloff has forwarded materials regarding suggested changes for our review. Mr. Evers has some excellent suggestions for us.

By-law Article 61: Mr. Grady met with incoming Fire Chief Michael Lentini & Chief Rick White this morning. They are comfortable with this article as written. The original intention of the Article was to both make it harder for underage people to smoke and to discourage playing with fire.

By-law Article 72: Police Lieutenant Brian Lauzon, despite strong support for updating this by-law as a public safety issue, considers this more aptly under the purview of the Building Commissioner (David Gusmini), as enforcement of this by-law resides with that office. Mr. Grady will confer with Mr. Gusmini. Discussion of how some Natick streets, even busy streets, have limited or no sidewalks (sidewalks would naturally help with fence set-backs). This public safety issue is covered in this by-law, not in zoning, and so it is appropriate to revise and put any change before Town Meeting through our committee.

By-law Article 83: Mr. White offered to include any specific suggestions from the committee in updates to the Board of Health (BOH) regulations. The BOH can make those changes at one of their meetings, and continue to keep the smoking regs for the town up-to-date in that manner. BOH can respond more nimbly than via updating By-law 83 through Town Meeting. Also, BOH uses language suggested by a lawyer from The Massachusetts Association of Health Boards for model regulations. E-cigarettes and other developments come along rapidly now. Examples of some recent progress: Natick Housing going smoke-free, only one smoker working at Town Hall. Discussion of what to possibly retain, while removing outdated content in the by-law. Discussion of what BOH could add, such as elevators, posting signs (which could be available from the BOH). Mr. White will provide us with a possible revision to this by-law by next Monday's meeting, or will let us know that he needs more time; if the latter, the CBRC will not take this up at 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

By-law Article 81: Mr. White shall require more time to properly review this extremely outdated by-law. The BOH shall put something forward for fall Town Meeting, independently of this committee (which will be ending with the upcoming spring Town Meeting).

Old business: None.

New business: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 23.

Motion to adjourn by Ms Merkowitz, seconded by Mr. Grady. Carried unanimously at 8:50 pm.

Minutes prepared by Catherine Schellenberg