

Bylaw Review Committee

December 4, 2025 Minutes

Members present: Rob Bowen (Chair), Jen Duffy (Vice Chair), Caesar Nuzzolo (Clerk), Nancy Gray, Kathy Herrick

Call to Order

Mr. Bowen called the Bylaw Review Committee to order at 7:04PM.

Public Comment

Ana Lockwood, 91 Main Street, asked if the meetings could be recorded or broadcast.

Minutes

The Committee had no minutes to review.

Feedback from Request to Town Committees and Stakeholders

The Committee has not received any responses from Boards/Committees/Commissions yet.

Preliminary Review of Bylaws

Mr. Nuzzolo raised the question of Finance Committee members serving on other boards, particularly boards that oversee specific departments and their budgets. Mr. Bowen requested examples of bylaws from other municipalities for the Committee to review and Mr. Nuzzolo mentioned several municipalities have bylaws to this effect. Mr. Bowen and Ms. Duffy agreed that the issue was worth considering further. Mr. Bowen also questioned how the Conflict of Interest Law applies to such arrangements.

The Committee discussed Chapter 168, "Licensing," and agreed that the Select Board should review the chapter. The Committee specifically discussed § 168-2 and whether the Tax Collector currently furnishes the annual and periodic information to departments and boards as required by the bylaw.

Mr. Nuzzolo raised the proposed noise ordinance and the reasons it had been proposed. Ms. Duffy stated that broad solutions to specific problems are not always

appropriate. Mr. Bowen agreed and noted that adopting a Town-wide bylaw in response to a limited issue could affect all residents, and that other avenues for relief, including civil remedies, may exist. The Committee was not inclined to take up the proposed noise ordinance. Ms. Duffy questioned how a noise ordinance would be enforced during daytime hours, and Mr. Bowen noted that some ordinances use decibel limits while the proposal under discussion had used distance-based standards. The Committee noted that the Police Chief had discussed the usefulness of having an ordinance available while working with a resident experiencing a noise issue, but had not actively advocated that such an ordinance was necessary. Mr. Nuzzolo shared feedback from residents concerned that a noise ordinance could affect otherwise well-intentioned activity. The Committee agreed to ask the Police Chief whether there are other bylaws that could address enforcement challenges beyond a noise ordinance.

The Committee discussed why vehicle regulations differ between Shirley Reservoir and Whalom Lake and whether the provisions should be combined. The Committee noted that the Shirley Reservoir definition of vehicles does not include snow vehicles and that the two sets of provisions differ with respect to fines, littering, and pollution. The Committee discussed combining and standardizing the provisions.

The Committee reviewed Chapter 184, "Pawnbrokers and Dealers in Metal," and questioned whether the requirement for daily reports to the Police Department remains appropriate and whether any pawnbrokers currently operate in Town. The Committee noted the law-enforcement purpose of the reports, including cross-checking items reported stolen against items brought to pawnbrokers.

The Committee reviewed Chapter 187, "Peddling and Soliciting," including the \$300 fine for each offense, and discussed obtaining a list of active peddler licenses.

The Committee discussed § 205-1, "Games restricted," and Chapter 228, "Vehicles, Recreational," and agreed to ask the Police Department whether the existing bylaws adequately address electric vehicles and e-bikes.

General Discussion of Progress, Timeline

The Committee decided to review the remainder of the Bylaws at the next meeting and identify individuals to speak with the Committee. The Police Chief was the only Department Head identified at this time. The Committee will also reach out to the Town Manager regarding other departments from which feedback may be useful.

Set Next Meeting(s) Date, Time, Place

The Committee will determine the next meeting date and location by email.

Public Comment

Mr. Bowen asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Adjourn

Ms. Duffy motioned to adjourn at 8:31PM. Mr. Nuzzolo seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.