

MINUTES
By-Law Study Committee
January 19, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
Town Office Building, Conference Room 1

PRESENT: John Broderick, Judi Theocles, Ed Lennon, Dave Sanders and Beverly Litchfield.

ABSENT: Mike Mannix

GUEST: Steve Fratoni – Chairman of the Commission on Disability

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman John at 5:00 p.m.

I. Acceptance of minutes:

Motion: Made by Judi Theocles and seconded by Dave Sanders to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015 as amended (Added “**recommend to the By-law committee to redefine a quorum for the Finance Committee to be a majority of seated members, provided it will be no less than a four member quorum**” in section III to clarify the motion.) **Approved unanimously.** Judi Theocles refrained from voting since she was not at the Dec. 15, 2015 meeting.

- II. New business:** Our guest, Steve Fratoni, explained why he had come before us. Two major concerns discussed were fines for parking in handicapped parking locations and no representation on the Community Preservation Committee. The Commission on Disability would like to see Section 706 (Parking Prohibited) subsection “c” (fines) #3 increased to “**two hundred dollars (\$200.00) if paid within twenty-one days (21); the fine shall increase to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) if paid thereafter**”. They also recommend the removal of subsequent offenses. The last sentence would stand as it currently is in the by-law. Ed Lennon warned that this increase in fees could result in more appeals going to the court. Ed did state that he felt the two hundred dollars (\$200.00) was a good start though. This could always be re-visited if issues arise. Concerning the “late fee” amount – we need to see if the State has a limit on this fee. We will check. **Motion made by Judi Theocles and seconded by Dave Sanders to support the Commission on Disability’s request to raise initial fee from one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and the late fee from one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) striking out subsequent offenses if this complies with State statutes.** Discussion followed referencing going even higher with the fees but they remained as mentioned in the motion. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.** Ed Lennon offered to update the section of the by-law for our review.

Concerning the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) – Steve Fratoni mentioned that the Commission on Disability would like representation on the Community Preservation Committee due to the number of projects being reviewed and supported by CPC. Discussion continued in great length migrating toward a member of the Commission on Disability serving as a “consultant or liaison” to the CPC. Steve would

like to see the town be “pro-active” to avoid any project issues down the road. **A motion was made by Dave Sanders and seconded by Judi Theocles to add to (b) of Section 519, second sentence, “The committee shall “consult with the Commission on Disability and other municipal boards”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.** We thanked Steve for his input and suggestions.

The committee now reviewed a couple of resident concerns. Chairman John explained the call he received from a resident concerning bicycles and public safety. Ed Lennon did not feel we could act on this since it is regulated by State statute. Concerning “no military equipment or weapons”, Ed Lennon stated what the police can acquire is governed by State law. Chairman John offered to call the resident to explain our position.

No discussion on Town Clerk elected vs appointed at this time. Want to make sure there is a full committee for this discussion. It was also mentioned to look into Herta Dane’s email about the Tree Warden/Pest Control appointment for the next meeting. Bev L. offered to do this.

- III. Old business:** It was decided to discuss the Public Safety Advisory Committee at a later date. No update on Water and Sewer or recall elections either. Finance Committee quorum may be addressed at another meeting even though it was addressed during our last meeting. Some members feel we should have no opinion on this matter. We will wait for Mike Mannix to return from Florida.

Onto the “Chicken by-law – Dave Sanders mentioned items brought to his attention by John Pearsall, Planning Director. Dave S. will note these items and send the revised info out to us. A lengthy discussion followed noting too many issues with this subject for us to vote on at this time. Dave S. feels this is very important and we should consider it. Dave S. also wants to look at whether residents could even have a farm stand to sell eggs. It was asked if there should be a hearing on this by-law. No one had an answer.

Judi Theocles had to leave the meeting at this point. She left at 7:12 PM.

Ed L. handed out a new update concerning police department related by-laws being worked on. He suggested that we ask the selectmen to question the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Ed Rigney about a Public Safety Advisory Committee while they are in attendance at the Selectmen’s meeting on Monday, January 25th. Chairman John said he would send something to Candace so the selectmen would have a “heads-up”. Ed L. said he would be at the meeting due to the new police building contract which goes to the State next.

- IV. Article V and section 500 “committees” (headings):** No discussion this meeting.
- V. Section 515 –** No discussion this meeting.

VI. Public comment - None

VII. Next meeting date - Scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 5:00 PM. Future tentative date of Thursday, February 4th at 5:00 PM was also mentioned. Chairman John was going to check to see when Mike Mannix would be back.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Ed Lennon and seconded by Dave Sanders. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly J. Litchfield, Clerk

Minutes approved: _____