

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE
Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2015

Call to Order:

PRESENT:

Bylaw Review Committee (BRC): Jeanne Pryor (JP); George Roberts (GR); Bruce Garlow (BG);
Mark Karlberg (MK)
Public: None

ABSENT: Ann Krawet (AK)

Meeting was called to order by JP at 12:04 AM.

AGENDA:

1. Review and approve minutes for November 18, 2015 meeting.

a. JP proposed some changes to the minutes which will be incorporated

2. Review and discuss draft addition to Town Bylaws Article 21-Vacant Properties

a. Bill Girard (BG), Building Inspector, joined the discussion to expound upon his process regarding inspections of vacant and abandoned properties.

BG discussed the process for determining which properties to inspect. Bill follows up on buildings that do not meet building code regulations and performs a visual inspection. If the property appears to be abandoned (i.e. structurally violates building codes) he will determine the owner and issue a letter requesting the owner to repair and make safe or take down the property. If the property is in a severe state of disrepair, he will issue a letter to the current owner requesting it to be demolished. If there is no reply, then it becomes the town's responsibility. He discussed his view of the process for enforcing the proposed Vacant Properties bylaw and there was a discussion of who will collect the fee, Town Clerk, Tax collector? JP will check the town has accepted the MGL to allow Tax Collector to receive fees. to see i

Currently there are 20 properties that require demolition at a cost of \$8,000-10,000 each to accomplish. The Board of Survey inspects buildings on list for being demolished. It was suggested that funds from the bylaw go to the demolish fund. The Tax Collector would assist in having information on building owners. MK asked if inspector would a building when it is inspected BG noted the inspection would be cursory, by sight from car as he does for other complaints. The Building Code defines unsafe buildings as those with an ongoing structure defect and /or open to the weather. BG can issue tickets for

violation up to \$300.00 per week for non-criminal violations. Bylaw should reduce some demolitions if owners are taking care of the building. The Bylaw is for compliance and not punishment.

BG will provide a copy of letters currently used to contact owners.

3. Review draft DOG CONTROL BY-LAW regarding changes in new MBLs affecting Animal Control Officers that may be included in a revised Section 11

a. Deferred until next meeting.

4. Town Bylaws, Article 17, Section 22 Abandon Wells. Discussion and possible vote to recommend that the Selectmen include this proposed bylaw on the upcoming ATM warrant

a. After a brief discussion MK moved to have the selectmen place the subject on the ATM warrant. JP seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. General Review of Town Bylaws (Article 2 through 2B)

a. Deferred until next meeting.

6. Any other business to come before the Committee per MGL c. 30A, Section 20(B)

a. None

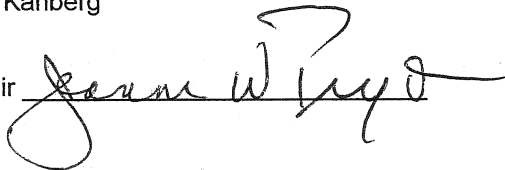
7. Set next meeting dates

March 23rd at 10:00 AM.

Adjourn: MK moved to adjourn at 1:30 PM. JP seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Mark Karlberg

Approved by Jeanne Pryor, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne W. Pryor", written over a horizontal line.