

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

Minutes  
September 6, 2017

PRESENT: Bylaw Review Committee: Jeanne Pryor, Chair; Ann Krawet; Bruce Garlow; George Roberts

ABSENT:

PUBLIC: Richard and Stephanie Moss (Camp Lenox), Bill Girard

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chair.

### **Review minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting**

The minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved as written on motion of A. Krawet, second of J. Pryor.

### **Committee Membership**

The Chair noted that the 9/6/17 Selectmen's agenda includes the Bylaw Review Committee's request that the Selectmen post a notice for a new member to fill the vacancy created due to Mark Karlberg's resignation tendered 8/24/2017. Bruce explained the Committee's work. Mr. Moss expressed some interest in joining the Committee.

### **Outdoor Lighting Bylaw**

The minutes of the August 10, 2017 Public Hearing were reviewed and approved as written on motion of J. Pryor, second of A. Krawet.

Mr. Moss (Camp Lenox) provided comments to the Committee about his concerns and those of Camps Greylock and Watitoh about wording in the Bylaw that addresses lighting for security and on streets, timing of when lights should be turned off, the cost of replacing lighting, complaints. Bill Girard reviewed the Bylaw and suggested, under Section 5, that the use of timers for architectural lighting features should be considered.

The following changes were made to the bylaw:

#### **Section 5, paragraph 2**

All light fixtures, regardless of their intended use or mounting configuration, shall be fully shielded, properly installed, and directed downward. Downward direction may be waived by the Building Inspector when illuminating architectural feature such as building sections, spires, American flags, or landscaping features, provided efforts are made to minimize glare, and use only the minimum amount of light necessary **and all such decorative lighting shall be turned off by 10:00 p.m.**

#### **Section 7. Compliance**

When an existing outdoor lighting fixture is being modified, extended, expanded, or added to, outdoor lighting shall be subject to this section. All other outdoor lighting fixtures, **with the exception of those listed in Section 2**, must come into conformance with this section within 5 years of its effective date.

The Chair reported that a copy of the draft minutes from the Bylaw Review Committee's 8/10/17 meeting was sent to Bill Hoch, Camp Watitoh, at his request. A copy of the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw was sent to Geri Walter at her request. The Committee received a "thank you" email from Amy Perlmutter regarding the "dark skies" Bylaw.

The Committee received a request from Leo Smith, IDA Northeast Regional Director, to include a "Streetlights" Section in the Bylaw as follows:

**5A. Streetlights**

*The Town shall file a written request with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or with any utility company responsible for installing and maintaining streetlights on municipal or state roads, asking that any newly installed or replacement streetlights be*

- 1. Fully shielded*
- 2. If LED, use a correlated color temperature of 2700 Kelvin*

The Committee discussed this request and agreed that the last paragraph of Section 2. Applicability should be revised to address the establishment of a policy regarding streetlights and Jeanne will draft language for discussion at our next meeting.

**Dog Control Bylaw changes**

Jeanne distributed the revised Dog Control Bylaw that reflects the committee's response to Town Counsel's comments. The revisions will be sent to the Town Administrator for inclusion on the next town meeting warrant. The Committee's intention is to keep in our bylaw those changes to the state law, such as definitions, that are new and that will provide the Animal Control Officer and residents with enough information so that the need to refer to the MGL is lessened.

**Proposed Amendments to Article 17 Town Betterment Bylaws, SECTION 21**

Following the last meeting, Jeanne forwarded to Ed Gibson via email the Committee's proposed changes to Article 17, Section 21.

**Any other business to come before the Committee per G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b)**

Jeanne prepared a listing of Selectmen's policies that she had received from the Selectmen's Secretary and those that she had researched by reviewing Selectmen's minutes from 1/7/2009-8/2/2017. The Committee agreed that, before we proceed further, we should contact the Selectmen asking them if they want to revisit the policies for which we either have no date of approval or copy of the policy or if the Selectmen want our Committee to do further research.

**Next meeting date and adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. By motion of A. Krawet, second of J. Pryor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

List of documents discussed and/or distributed at meeting:

- Minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting
- Minutes of the August 10, 2017 public hearing
- Email from Amy Perlmutter
- Email from Leo Smith, IDA Northeast Regional Director
- Revised Dog Control Bylaw dated 6/21/17
- 3/22/17 Dog Control Bylaw with Town Counsel's comments
- Bylaw Review Committee minutes of 6/21/17
- 8/15/17 email to E. Gibson with proposed changes to Article 17 Town Betterment Bylaws, SECTION 21
- Outdoor Lighting Bylaw dated 7/12/17
- List of policies received by Selectmen's Secretary and those researched by Jeanne

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Pryor

Approved by Jeanne Pryor, Chair

