

Members Present: Sam Albert, Police Chief; Karen Murphy, Town Administrator; Joshua Hall, DPW Director; Brenda Bodanza, Citizen-at-Large

Members Absent: Denise MacAloney, Town Clerk; Charlie Aubuchon, Citizen-at-Large; Sharon Taylor, Citizen-at-Large

Others Present: Lt. Mike McDonald

CALL TO ORDER

S. Albert called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 205 of the Westminster Town Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 7, 2015

J. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BYLAW REVIEW

Chapter 125 – Junkyards:

The committee discussed Junkyards; it was the wish of the committee to address this bylaw at the next meeting with the Building Commissioner present.

Chapter 193 – Abandoned Vehicles:

The committee discussed Abandoned Vehicles. J. Hall indicated that the fees for these are okay; however they should be on an increasing scale for additional violations. The committee agreed that the fees be doubled for subsequent offenses, to a maximum of \$300 or whatever the law allows.

M. McDonald indicated that the committee should look into the fine structure for various offenses, in order to increase fees for those who are repeat offenders.

Chapter 116 – Graffiti:

J. Hall indicated that he would like to incorporate Ch. 116 with Ch. 173-17 Signs, to rename this section “Signage”, and to include all signs not just posters.

The committee discussed requiring a permit for putting up signs as well as the removal of signs that cause a safety hazard that are located along public right of ways.

S. Albert indicated that the committee will discuss all of Chapter 173 at the next meeting, and J. Hall will rework the bylaw language.

Chapter 190 – Trees:

J. Hall indicated that this bylaw needs to be cleaned up due to some archaic language contained within it referencing the tying of horse and cattle to trees; this should be changed to prohibiting the tying of any animal to a tree.

The committee discussed Chapter 173-15, Trimming Trees and Shrubs and agreed that the current language is okay. The committee will use similar language for signs.

The committee discussed the Shade Tree law as well as the fines associated with any violations in this bylaw.

Chapter 196 – Vehicles:

J. Hall recommended the following changes to the bylaw;

196-1 – “no person shall drive or park any vehicle on a sidewalk except emergency vehicles,”

The committee discussed the proposed changes to the bylaw, as well as the fee schedule for violations. The committee also discussed deleting 196-4 as it is already covered in MGL chapter 90B.

OTHER BUSINESS

The committee indicated that the following bylaw chapters will be discussed at the next meeting:

Chapter 14 – Capital Planning

Chapter 104 - Firearms

Chapter 125 - Junkyards

Chapter 131 - Permits

Chapter 134 - Littering

Chapter 141 - Soliciting

Chapter 173 - Streets and Sidewalks

The next meeting of the Bylaw Review Committee will be held on Wednesday November 4, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.