

**TOWN OF DEDHAM
450 WASHINGTON STREET
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF THE DECENNIAL BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 28, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Cecilia Emery Butler, Chair
Norman Vigil
Micah Flynn
Jennifer Doherty
Michelle Labadini

ABSENT:

Fred Wofford

GUESTS:

Nancy Baker, Assistant Town Manager
Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel
Doreen LaBrecque, Assistant to Administration

Minutes prepared by Ed Boice of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and the Members and the public having been given adequate and proper notice of the meeting, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION – PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS TO DATE

ACTION – Town Counsel will combine the language and grammar changes to the bylaws with the changes suggested by the police chief and approved by the Committee into one amendment document for the Select Board to consider.

Counsel presented the amendments made to the bylaws since the Committee last met, including revised wording and updated language, and the addition of all the bylaw changes to be presented to the Select Board. They also researched the questions the Committee posed during their previous meeting. The following highlights were noted:

- In Article 1, Town Counsel removed the section defining gender since all gendered language in the bylaws has been replaced with gender-neutral terms.
- Articles 39-15 and 41-56 are inconsistent with each other.
- The mitigation funds committee could be dismissed with the acceptance of new state law 44-53-K. The town's mitigation funds committee is currently not meeting.
- For Section 42, Town Counsel is researching who police department is fingerprinting and who they are not fingerprinting. The Committee could choose to remove requirements from the list except for ice cream truck vendors.

- Article 78-10, pertaining to the Select Board disseminating individuals' information, was deleted. The prevention of sharing private information is already prevented by the state public records law.
- Article 85-1,2,3 was rewritten to match what is currently written in the charter.
- Article 85-3 should be rewritten so that the language is transparent that the Select Board can alter the hours of elections.
- Article 85-4 should be reworded to more accurately communicate its intent.
- Article 85-5 is a contributing factor in how long the Select Board needs to wait before holding a special meeting. The Committee could alter or delete this section if they want to decrease that time.
- Article 129-9 refers to Article 129-10 instead of Article 1-6 for consistency with the rest of the bylaws.
- Section 136 could be removed because it is unnecessary.
- The format of Article 183-6 was made consistent with the rest of the bylaws.
- Article 192-2c, addressing work on weekends and holidays, could be deleted. Enforcement was also made consistent with the rest of the enforcements in the bylaws.
- Articles 199-1 through 199-12 may not be not useful to law enforcement and could potentially be deleted.
- Chapter 204 may be reviewed and rewritten later to improve its clarity.
- Article 110-4 is unnecessary and could be deleted.

The Committee considered whether to update sections referencing the election of a chair, vice chair, and a clerk for committees, and whether they should include all three positions in all election sections. The Committee decided to remove each instance of the positions for simplicity and so each committee can keep their current leadership structure.

Town Counsel is reaching out to a couple of boards to ensure that crosshatched areas for vans are considered handicapped spaces.

The Committee agreed to alter the capitalization of the word "bylaw" to "Bylaw" throughout the document.

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE – FINAL REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO SELECT BOARD

ACTION – Town Counsel will create a bullet list for the Select Board of all the amendments proposed by the Decennial Bylaw Review Committee.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Management will send the video recordings of the Decennial Bylaw Review Committee's meetings in January, February, and March, 2025 to Minutes Solutions for the creation of the meeting minutes.

Information is missing from the minutes of the Committee meeting held on June 2, 2025. The Committee will correct them and consider the minutes for review and approval at the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was voted adjourn the Committee meeting at 7:40 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Cecilia Emery Butler
Cecilia Emery Butler, Chair

8-11-2025
Date

