

MIDDLETON BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Middleton Charter calls for the routine review of bylaws. Section 10-4-1 states: "It shall be the responsibility of the select board to insure, through an appointed By-law Committee, that the By-laws of the Town shall be reviewed, codified, and republished at least every five years, and that copies shall be made available to all registered voters requesting them."

In order to implement this directive, the Select Board hereby establishes a Bylaw Review Committee (the "Committee") and promulgates its mission. The Committee shall consist of five (5) residents. The Town Clerk, or designee, shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member.

The mission of the Committee shall be to ensure the Bylaws (1) adhere to the Town Charter and General Laws, (2) are internally consistent and not obsolete, (3) reflect generally accepted best practices utilized by similar Massachusetts towns, (4) are ordered and placed appropriately, and (5) are sound in its grammatical, syntactic, and other non-substantive properties.

The Committee shall consider any article which proposes an amendment to the Bylaws, at any Town Meeting, in accordance with the mission of the Committee. The Committee Chair, or other member of the Committee designated by the Chair, shall report to the Town Meeting such recommendations, if any, as the Committee shall consider appropriate.

The Select Board shall submit to the Committee all proposed amendments to the Bylaws prior to their inclusion in the warrant for any Town Meeting. The Committee shall meet and review all such proposed amendments in accordance with the mission of the Committee. The Committee shall report to the Select Board its recommendation.

The Committee may propose to the Select Board for inclusion in the warrant for the next Town Meeting any amendments to the Bylaws which the Committee determines should be made to fulfil the mission of the Committee.

The Committee shall propose to the Select Board, for inclusion in the warrant for the next Town Meeting, any amendments to the Bylaws which have been requested of it by any Town board or officer.

The Committee may correspond with or request the presence of any municipal staff, committee representative, or petitioner, as to their expertise regarding any provisions or proposed provisions of the Bylaws.

Failure to observe any provision of herein shall not affect the validity of any change in the Bylaws which has been duly adopted by vote of the Town Meeting.