

Beacon Falls Ordinance Review Committee
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
April 6, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

- Tom Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - **Members Present:** Tom Pratt, Rich Minnick, Kyle Brennan
 - **Others Present:** none

2. Comments from the Public

- None received.

3. Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings

- **RM:** Motion to accept minutes from the March meeting, seconded by TP, unanimous.

4. Old Business

- None.

5. Discussion on Procedures to Update/Modify Existing Ordinances

- **RM:** Hopefully all committee and department chairs will have their recommendations into us by April 14.
- **TP:** We now have an updated binder and table of contents with a status update on all the ordinances, except for No. 356—Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations.
- **RM:** I'm still working on that.
- **TP:** To bring Kyle up to speed, we have been working with Wastewater Pollution Control Agency and sent them the ordinances for review. The only change in that ordinance will have to do with some verbiage about training. The WPCA people want to make some changes to their regulations. As long as they follow the legality of how to make changes, that will be good. The only hang-up right now is with No. 216—Hawkers, Peddlers, and Vendors. One item got missed in there, so that's being worked on.
- **RM:** Are we planning on doing this public hearing all on one night?
- **TP:** I want everyone's input, but I think that's the plan. We should present all the amendments at one time and have them discussed, and if there's a problem with one of them, we can hold one and move forward with the rest.
- **RM:** And we're going to present the fees and fines separately. Hopefully every board and commission gets back to us in time so we can have this done.
- **TP:** My recommendation going forward is that every board and commission reviews fees and fines every April to make sure they're up to date. So when we wind this thing up, I don't think we should have any dollar figures in any of these ordinances—just refer to the master fee schedule—and that way we shouldn't have to touch the ordinances much after this.
- **RM:** One area of concern is about illicit discharge because they're partially governed by the recommendations in state statutes.

- TP: We did that with the police department. We took the minimum fines from state statutes and raised them up a little bit. I don't know how our board can make the Board of Selectmen understand how critical enforcement is.
- RM: I don't know how you do it continuously. We all feel right now that we have someone who will make an effort to enforce it, but I've seen it go the opposite way over the years. All we can do is say, 'here it is; now it's up to you.'
- TP: The noise ordinance is one I shared with Bert. Anything that they should enforce, they were unaware it was up to them to enforce. I wanted to make sure he's aware that our police should be responsible for enforcing ordinances.
- RM: They don't necessarily have to go around looking for it, but if the town gets a call about a violation, that's where enforcement will be important.
- TP: The fire marshals are looking to do an initiative about house numbering because so many homes have no numbers. Because the numbering committee is an ordinance, that would have to happen in order to do it. Brian DeGeorge is looking at tweaking that ordinance to make house numbers mandatory. He's going to come up with a size of number that must be posted, but that committee has to get back together for it to be enforced.
- KB: I'm confused about regulations being included in our table of contents with ordinance chapter numbers. I know they are not ordinances, but the average person would look at this and not be sure if they're ordinances or not. I don't see the master fee schedule listed here—would that be a regulation or in the appendix or what?
- TP: The idea is that the master fee schedule should be shifted into an ordinance of its own. That way, every year, a board or commission can all take a look every year and make their recommendations, and all of the changes to the ordinance can be made at once.
- KB: We're a town that doesn't have an annual meeting, so it sounds like if that plan were to happen, we would almost be better served scheduling an annual meeting in which one of the purposes would be to vote upon any necessary ordinance changes—especially updates to the master fee schedule.
- TP: Right, and all fee changes would take effect on a July 1. We really need to focus on this master fee schedule, because I know that contractors love coming to work in Beacon Falls right now because they pay a fraction here compared to what they pay in other towns.

6. New Business

- None.

7. Executive Session

- Not needed.

8. Comments from the Public

- None received.

9. Adjournment

- **RM: Motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m., seconded by TP, unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Brennan

Ordinance Review Committee clerk and member