

## **GENERAL BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Town of Stow Charter mandates that the Town's General Bylaw be reviewed by a committee of five voters every five years. In January 2005, the Board of Selectmen appointed the current General Bylaw Review Committee to complete this task. The committee's first meeting was held on February 3, 2005 and has scheduled regular bi-monthly meetings since March 24, 2005.

The committee recognized that our mandate was to review and search for possible updates to the Town's General Bylaw. Our major focus was to identify any inconsistencies as a result of recent Charter amendments and within the current bylaws themselves. We agreed that we would ask for comments, advice and suggestions from all Town boards, commissions, and committees to identify sections of the current General Bylaw that required clarification or update. The committee actively sought input from all Town departments, committees, and boards. (Exhibit B lists all the interested parties we contacted for comments.)

During our regular meetings, the committee read and discussed each bylaw article and section in detail. We reviewed suggestions received, requesting additional information as needed. Meeting dates, time, and agendas were filed with the Town Clerk as were approved minutes and committee correspondence.

Some sections of the General Bylaw which have not been updated in some time are of a technical nature. These include the Underground Storage and Hazardous Material bylaws. The General Bylaw committee defers to the expertise of the Boards and Commissions which administer these sections. At this time, these groups do not have specific changes to recommend. It is our understanding that these Board and Commissions are conducting their own reviews of the current bylaws and may propose changes in the future.

This report identifies amendments to the General Bylaw that the committee intends to bring to a public hearing in early March. Exhibit A gives a summary of these changes. We are presenting proposed changes as provided to the General Bylaw Review Committee by other Town committees and departments, with only one exception. The proposed amendment to Article 11; Section 17 was drafted by the General Bylaw Review Committee.

The committee intends to submit an updated report to the Selectmen after the public hearing and will prepare a final report for presentation at Town Meeting in accordance with the Stow Town Charter.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Pavelchek, Chairman  
George G. Cormier, Clerk  
John Clayton, Jr.

Linda E. Hathaway  
Deborah A. Woods