

Selectboard Information Hearing on the Unified Bylaw and Flood Hazard Zoning Ordinance  
November 8, 2023 5 p.m. at the Strafford Town Office, Strafford Vermont

Attending the meeting in person: Selectboard members Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger, David Paganelli, and John Freitag, Town Clerk Lisa Bragg, Martha Walke  
Attending via zoom: Josh Kahan, Donald Graham, Trey Piepmeier, Rhett Emerson, Michael Scanlan, Peter and Sherry Duveneck, Ann Kynor, Allan Wylie

Selectboard Chair John Freitag opened the hearing at 5 p.m. by thanking the Strafford Planning Commission for their years of work on the proposed updates.

Freitag then highlighted changes between the old ByLaws and the proposed ByLaws which if approved by the voters will replace the current ones. These included standards for conditional use, changes in zoning districts, and streamlining of regulations. The proposed ByLaws have been updated to match the most recent Town Plan and balance development with preservation. Freitag explained the process in which the Planning Commission held a public hearing on their work before submitting it to the Selectboard. The Selectboard then reviewed and made changes and held their own Public Hearing on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Freitag went over the changes made by the Selectboard including those on Class III wetlands at the suggestion of soils wetland scientist and Strafford resident Tim McCormick. Freitag said that the Flood Hazard Zoning Ordinance was an upgrade to continue to allow for people who need it to get flood insurance as well as to comply with existing federal regulations.

Questions were asked and comments given. There was no opposition to the proposed Unified ByLaw and Flood Hazard Zoning Ordinance voiced at the hearing. Freitag mentioned although the Selectboard had the authority to approve the Unified ByLaw and Flood Hazard Ordinance on its own, it had chosen this process to maximize participation and understanding of our regulatory process. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Town Office. All mailed in ballots must be received by that date.

Freitag concluded by reiterating the entire Selectboard's strong support for both measures and encouragement for people to vote Yes.

The Hearing was closed at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Levinger

