

Beaver Cove Firearms Ordinance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2023

Present: Alison Barkley, Rod Falla, Cathy Sweetser, Richard Anderson, Rob West, Joe Babbitt, Dan Harrison, John Shannon, Sally Farrand

The meeting commenced at 6:30 P.M.

1. Alison reviewed the committee goal and process. The goal of the meeting was to formulate a revised ordinance for consideration by the Select Board. The Select Board is committed to putting a revised ordinance before the Town at its annual meeting in May for a vote.
 2. The committee first agreed that Burnt Jacket would be removed from the current ordinance.
 3. The committee then began the hard work of developing a consensus on other points of disagreement.
 4. The committee first developed consensus that this ordinance would serve primarily to enhance public safety by preventing illegal discharge of firearms within the established boundaries of the ordinance through education including signage and encouraging property owners/landlords to educate themselves and tenants on the Maine State laws and the Town of Beaver Cove ordinance.
 5. The committee agreed to add language specifically mandating signage.
 6. The committee agreed to maintain the language in the current ordinance on fines.
 7. The committee agreed in principle to language protecting property owners with large enough tracts of land to discharge firearms legally on their own property.
 8. Discussion of the definition of firearms included some concerns about ensuring that the revised ordinance includes high-powered air rifles and crossbows.
 9. The committee agreed that the revised ordinance should add "town maintained roads" to the Maine State law "paved roads".
 10. The committee agreed to add an article encouraging property owners/landlords to provide Maine State laws, the Town of Beaver Cove ordinance, and other educational materials to tenants.
 11. Alison stated that she would review members' concerns and distribute a draft revised ordinance for the committee's consideration.
 12. The committee encouraged an education campaign on the part of the Town on legal firearms discharge. Please note this meeting was posted 7 days in advance with the public invited to attend and will continue to be posted whenever a meeting date is determined.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Alison Barkley