

DRAFT

Minutes of the Petitioners' Advisory Committee Meeting
January 8, 2015
Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Present: Petitioners' Advisory Comm. Members Patricia Leiby, Joanna Nickerson, and Walter St. Onge
Former CATV Comm. members John Monahan and Elisha Tillman

The meeting came to order at 7:35 p.m.

The petitioners distributed copies of their draft petition (attached) for an article for Annual Town Meeting proposing to amend General Bylaw 26.4, Responsibilities of the CATV Committee, by adding an additional responsibility:

“Monitor the Town’s cable television funds and advise the Selectmen and Town Manager on expenditures from those funds.”

Mr. Monahan described what the article intended to accomplish. He requested the committee’s comments and advice relative to form and procedures for submission.

Members of the committee

- Reviewed relevant sections of the Charter (2.7, 2.10) and General Bylaws (1.3, 4.4.3, 4.4.7);
- Recommended changing the language customarily used for a General Bylaw amendments by following an example from the 2011 Annual Town Meeting Warrant;
- Recommended including the entire text of 26.4 rather than only the proposed additional text and using bold type face for the proposed additional language;
- Advised the proponents to attend the meetings of the Selectmen for their hearing on the article; and of the Finance Committee for their discussion of same;
- Recommended considering removing two advisory paragraphs from the draft petition that made reference to law re “signer information” and “signers statement” but without citation, unless the Town Clerk could provide more information;
- Clarified that once the petition had been submitted to the Selectmen with certification by the Town Clerk, it would be printed in the ATM Warrant exactly as submitted, with recommendations from the Finance Committee and Selectmen;
- Confirmed that the Selectmen have authority to place Selectmen’s articles - including Bylaw Amendments - on the warrant, but not to remove the petitioners’ article from the warrant.

Mr. Monahan and Ms. Tillman expressed appreciation for the advice, and thanked the committee members for responding in a timely manner to their request for a meeting.

The committee members voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Nickerson

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**Town of Bedford, Massachusetts
2015 Annual Town Meeting
Petitioners Warrant Article**

To determine whether the Town will vote to approve the following amendment to Article 26 of the Town Bylaws, Cable Television Committee, by inserting the following sentence under "26.4 Responsibilities" or take other action relative thereto:

- Monitor the Town's cable television funds and advise the Selectmen and Town Manager on expenditures from those funds.

Signer Information

Instructions to signers: For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the town named above and your signature should be written substantially as registered. If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

Signers Statement

We are qualified voters of this town, and in accordance with the provisions of the law, support the above article for the Annual Town Meeting.

	CHECK	SIGNATURES to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (town will be the same as stated above)	PRECINCT
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