

Brighton Zoning Bylaw Repeal Minutes 01/08/2025

Board Members Present: Jeanne G., Pierre G., Heather M., Greg M., and Mike T.

The Selectboard called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Lisa M.

Lisa inquired about the revision of the zoning bylaws. Heather explained that updates are currently being reviewed.

Brett H.

Brett asked the board what grants the town might lose if zoning were removed. Heather provided an overview of the grant writing process and how the point system influences grant eligibility, depending on the type of grant. Joel Cope clarified which specific grants the town would no longer qualify for without zoning.

Greg highlighted FEMA's role in zoning and explained the consequences of losing certain grants, including the inability to process buyouts without zoning in place. Brett further questioned whether the town could adopt minimal zoning requirements to maintain grant eligibility.

Pierre emphasized the importance of community participation in updating the bylaws and encouraged residents to share their input with the Planning Commission. He stressed that active involvement in these meetings is critical for ensuring the bylaws meet the town's needs.

Makia M.

Makia asked how zoning impacts the community and spoke in favor of maintaining zoning. He emphasized that zoning is a vital tool to serve the community, ensuring balanced development and protecting local interests. Makia highlighted that zoning should prioritize the needs of residents and be tailored to benefit the town.

Jim W.

Jim inquired about the specific revisions being made to the zoning bylaws. Joel explained the planned updates, noting that the town cannot amend its zoning bylaws without an active town plan. He referenced Acts 181 and 187, stating that the revisions would occur in two phases:

1. Quick updates to ensure compliance.
2. Broader revisions aligned with the town plan.

The board discussed the timing of Planning Commission meetings and agreed to upload a draft of the revised zoning bylaws to the town's website for public review.

Jamie B.

Jamie suggested updating the community board on the green with details about the zoning bylaws. The board agreed to look into this.

Jim W.

Jim also asked about the petition to remove zoning in the town. Heather outlined the next steps in the process and who would ultimately make the decision. Joel elaborated on the voting procedures for

repealing zoning. Pierre noted that a decision on the petition would be discussed at an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

Adjournment

Heather made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Pierre seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 P.M.