Ordinance Review Committee Minutes, July 31, 2019

The committee and group of citizens met at 6:00 pm for about two hours.

Steve Barnes presented a Findings of Fact concerning shoreland lots and sizes. Around 50% of Bremen’s landowners own land in the Shoreland Zone, with lot sizes and frontage varying from very small to over 1500 feet of frontage. This is based only on the Great Ponds and saltwater, not on other areas within the Shoreland Zone.

The group discussed the possibility of creating several zones, with implications for land that is not in the Shoreland Zone. There is a need to look at Bremen’s intent, purpose, and goals in order to make land use decisions throughout Bremen that are consistent with the character of Bremen and its citizens. The scope of this work is large, and will likely involve amending the Comprehensive Plan, which is recommended every ten years.

Steve Wallace then presented a possible compromise in saltwater setbacks, which would move closer to the state setbacks, limiting the size of dwellings when a lower setback is chosen. The meeting wrapped up with an agreement to look at this proposal.

After some reflection, the Ordinance Review Committee has opted to focus for now on the specific issues raised by the circulated petition and issues around setbacks, frontage and lot size that are in the current Shoreland Zone Ordinance. This would be done knowing that after the conceptual work is done, further changes may be in order.

We currently have a proposed amendment to the Appeals Board Ordinance and the petition signed by 75 citizens which suggests going primarily with the DEP Model Ordinance. It is state law that towns can adopt that ordinance or create their own which would be allowed to be stricter than the DEP model, but not more lenient.

The next meeting is scheduled to 6:00 pm, Wednesday, August 7th. Discussion will continue on the specific issues around setbacks, lot sizes and frontage in the Shoreland Zone.

We hope to see you there; your input is important and valued.

Best,

Ordinance Review Committee (Wendy Pieh, Harold Schramm, Walter Voskian)