

Statement from the Pawlet Planning Commission:

The Town Clerk has received a voter backed petition to repeal the zoning bylaws. This petition is legally binding and the town, including the planning commission and the Selectboard, will take appropriate action. Unlike most voter petitions, however, petitions about zoning bylaws do not go on the town meeting ballot. The Vermont Statutes (24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, specifically sections 4441 and 4442) govern how zoning bylaws are adopted, amended, and repealed, and we are required to follow that process.

Here is what will happen next:

- The petition will be sent to the planning commission.
- The planning commission will prepare a report on how the bylaw repeal conforms with the goals in the municipal plan.
- The planning commission will hold a public hearing on the bylaw repeal and will properly warn and publicize this hearing.
- After the public hearing, the planning commission will send the bylaw repeal to the Selectboard, along with any recommendations it considers appropriate.
- The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on the bylaw repeal and will properly warn and publicize this hearing.
- After the public hearing, the Selectboard will vote on the bylaw repeal.
- After the Selectboard vote, if five percent of the town's voters file a petition challenging that vote a special town meeting will be warned to vote on the issue by Australian ballot. If no petition is filed within 20 days the Selectboard's vote will stand.

These are the same steps that are followed for any bylaw adoption, amendment, or repeal. Residents of Pawlet are encouraged to attend the public hearings that will be held in order to make their voices heard.

Any questions can be directed to the Planning Commission Chair, Jessica Van Oort via email @ jvanoort.pawletsb@gmail.com.