

Town of Belgrade
Lakes and Natural Resources Committee
Bylaws

I. Authorities and duties

The Lakes and Natural Resources Committee researches, documents, and promotes the conservation of Belgrade's natural resources, including lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater, as well as forests, wildlife, fish and aquatic habitat, intact shoreland, and scenic areas. Guided by the current Belgrade Comprehensive Plan, the Committee works in partnership with 7 Lakes Alliance, local lake associations, Town departments such as Parks & Recreation and Facilities Management, and with other towns and stakeholders that share Belgrade's natural resources, including land owners and the business community. The Committee serves as an advisory body to the Town and, when appropriate, brings recommendations to the Selectboard for consideration. It also develops educational programs to achieve greater public awareness of the value and need for natural-resource conservation within Belgrade.

II. Committee Membership

The Lakes and Natural Resources Committee will consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectpersons in keeping with the Selectboard's appointment policy. Membership shall comprise:

1. One member from the Belgrade Lakes Association
2. One member from the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association
3. One member from the Friends of Messalonskee
4. One member who is a seasonal resident
5. Three at-large members

Appointees shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by the Town Clerk.

III. Terms

Committee members will be appointed for staggered terms of three (3) years. Committee members shall be eligible to serve no more than four (4) three-year terms in succession. Terms shall coincide with the first Selectboard meeting after the annual town meeting. The Town Clerk shall maintain an up-to-date list of Committee members and their terms.

Except for the seasonal representative, Committee members shall be qualified electors and residents of the Town. They shall comply with the provisions of 30-A MRSA 2605 pertaining to conflicts of interest. If any Committee member no longer meets the above qualifications or is convicted of a crime punishable by incarceration for six (6) months or more, his/her position will be immediately vacant.

IV. Meeting, Officers, and attendance

As with all Town boards and committees, the meetings of the Lakes and Natural Resources Committee must be posted in advance and open to the public. Meetings shall be scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month unless that date falls on a holiday, in the Town Office on an as-needed basis. If a change in the meeting time and/or date is needed, notification should be communicated to the Committee chair. The Chair will call the other members to determine if a quorum can be achieved. If so, at least four members must agree to a change in the scheduled time and/or date.

Specially called meetings may be conducted at other times, dates, and places so long as they are posted at least one week in advance and open to the public. The Committee shall meet at least once quarterly. At its first meeting after each Annual Town Meeting, the Committee shall determine a meeting time for the coming year. It shall also by a majority vote elect the following:

1. A chair to preside over the meetings and report to the Selectboard as necessary. The chair shall not serve more than four (4) one-year terms in succession.
2. A vice-chair to preside over meetings in the absence of the chair.

3. A secretary to take written minutes of meetings to be shared with the Town Clerk upon their approval.

If a committee member misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings from April through the following March without suitable reason satisfactory to the Committee chair, the Committee shall notify the absent member and the Town Manager of the absences. The Town Manager shall inform the Selectboard, which may then remove the absent member. The vacancy will be filled in accordance with the Town's appointment policy.

V. Quorum

A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is not present and the meeting is rescheduled before the next regularly scheduled meeting, it shall be done so in the manner required for all Town board and committee meetings.

VI. Compensation of members

Members of the Lakes and Natural Resources Committee shall serve without compensation.