



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee meet as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee; Vice Chair Coleman; and Committee Member Reps Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky. Also present were Rep. McMullen; Mike Toma, Law Department; Tilford Cobb, Animal Control Officer; Stacy Ober, Esq., AKC; and Annie Hornish, American Humane Society.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LR30.101	APPROVAL; Amendment of the Rules of the Board to Add Subsection V.D.6 Concerning Voting During Remote Meeting Authorized by State of Emergency. 10/07/20 – Submitted by President Quinones 10/20/20 – Held by Committee, as amended, 7-0-0 11/17/20 – Held 9-0-0 12/22/20 – Approved by Committee, 8-0-0 01/04/21 – Held at Board Meeting 01/19/21 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 9-0-0 02/01/21 – Held at Board Meeting	Approved, as amended, 9-0-0

Committee members discussed the interaction between the proposed rule change and the Governor's executive order with Mr. Toma. The executive order overrides any municipal requirements; since the executive order does not prohibit a member from putting another member on speaker phone. If the Board moved forward with the rule change, it would still be in place after the expiration of the Governor's order. Committee members discussed the revisions proposed by Rep. Sherwood on 2/1 and by Rep. Lee on 1/19. This amendment would only apply to proposed Section V.E.1.b. The other changes previously approved by the Committee would remain in place.

A motion to amend the proposed rule change to include the language proposed by Rep. Lee was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Coleman, Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

The amended rule would read:

V. Rules of Procedure

E. Emergency Meetings

1. In event of a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of Connecticut or the Mayor of the City of Stamford or other similar circumstance in which the Board of Representatives is unable to meet in person, the President may permit a Regular, Special, or Emergency Meeting of the Board of Representatives or its Committees to meet either by telephone or videoconference. in the City of Stamford, the President may elect to permit Board members to participate in a special meeting through telephone or video-conference.

a. The meeting shall be conducted in such a manner that all participating members can hear each other debate and vote, or if by video conference, see and hear each other.

b. Members of the Board of Representatives must be present at said meeting to vote. No member shall be permitted to vote by email, text or telephone call to any other member, provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit a member from assisting another member in making their voice heard (e.g., by means of putting such member on speaker-phone or conference line).

~~b.c.~~ To the extent practicable, members of the public shall be permitted to participate in any such meeting by telephone or video conference, although members of the public will be excluded from any executive session.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Persons other than members of the Board of Representatives shall not converse with Board members on the floor of the Board while the Board is in session.

2. Members that join the meeting after the Roll Call, or leave the meeting prior to adjournment, shall notify the Clerk so that the Clerk can keep track of the number of members present. Members who fail to notify the clerk will not be considered present.

3. The silencing of all personal electronic devices is required at all Board meetings.

A motion to approve Item No. 1, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. [LR30.103](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Potential Amendment to [§111-6](#) of the Code of Ordinances. **Report Made & Held 9-0-0**
12/07/20 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson
12/22/20 – Held by Committee 8-0-0
01/19/21 – Held by Committee 8-0-1

Committee members discussed the proposed ordinance with the invited guests.

Ms. Ober reviewed several of the proposed changes submitted by the AKC, including moving the tethering language and providing the ACO with discretion in enforcement. The AKC removed the 8' tether length as arbitrary as not appropriate for all breeds. The changes also reference the State statute. She noted that a grooming table would be considered tethering and groomin can be done outdoors.

Ms. Hornish stated that the AHS believes the proposed changes are appropriate and create objective criteria. The AHS there are solutions other than tethering for “escape artists”. The AKC fights extreme weather and other animal welfare laws.

Mr. Cobb stated that there was valuable language in both drafts. It is difficult to establish as set temperature that is appropriate for all dogs and the animal control officer should have discretion if a dog is suffering. He will provide specific language suggestions.

The Committee will be hearing from the Veterinary Society in upcoming months.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).