

# Pownal residents will vote on new zoning bylaws on April 22

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POWNAL — The Select Board scheduled a town vote for April 22 on the zoning bylaws that were adopted on Feb. 11. The vote comes after a petition was submitted that is intended to put a halt on building any new mobile home parks.

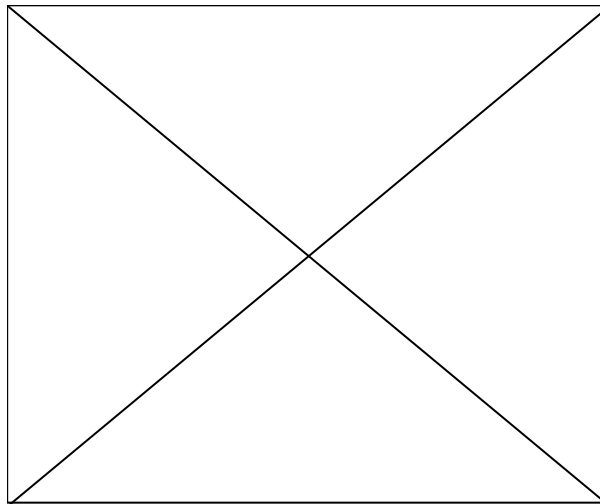
On April 21, a special floor meeting will be held but location and time is yet to be determined. The Select Board said that it will most likely happen at the school at 7 p.m. but that will be finalized after Timothy Holbrook, the town moderator, agreed to a time.

The vote will be asking approval of the new bylaws, which were adopted but because of the petition are not in effect, and if they are voted down they would go back to the Planning Commission, where petition supporters hope a moratorium will be put in place against mobile home parks in the village district.

According to town officials, the Planning Commission spent two years updating the 2002 bylaws. In the 2002 bylaws mobile home parks were listed as conditional use in most town districts, and the commission changed them to not allowed anywhere in town. The Select Board then changed them to allow parks in the village zone under conditional use because a state statute prevents

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discrimination against parks by disallowing them.

Supporters of the petition researched and discovered that a moratorium is legal and with wording from an attorney developed the petition. The Select Board contends that the people could have petitioned for a moratorium but attorneys advised the supporters to pursue this avenue.

The moratorium would be in place until the current parks are fixed, according to supporters. The Select Board said that this is a step backward because it will rescind bylaws that enforce tie-downs, skirts and require cement pads to be put on all new homes.

Planning Commission Chairman Jason Zimba previously said that the commission will be backed up if the bylaws are voted down and they have to re-address them. Supporters contend that since most of the work

is already completed, adding a moratorium, which would be similar to the amended bylaws they proposed, would not take much time.