

Board of Civil Authority Meeting - 1/7/2021
6 pm - Approved Minutes

BCA Present: via Zoom - Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier, Nora Rubinstein, Leslie Silver, Pat Hemenway, Elizabeth Cooper, Laura Castle. At the town office - Terry Redfield, Carl Haynes at 6:20pm; Neil at 6:35pm.

Public Present: via Zoom - Meredith Morgan, Nance Dean, Kimberly Bushnell - Moderator left at 6:27pm

Terry called to order at 6:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 10, 2020

Heather moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 as presented, Elizabeth 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

MARCH 2, 2021 TOWN MEETING PREPARATIONS

- a) **Informational Meeting Monday night, March 2 - real and virtual capability** - Kimberly shared her ideas on options for running a town meeting. We'd need to be super organized. Due to state guidelines for schools, we cannot use the school for a meeting, so our options for in-person are limited to the Historical Society dining room.

Questions and issues to be considered: Can we have the informational meeting the day before the meeting or could we have it sooner? We're worried about consistency of the program. If the window is only 3 days to have the meeting prior to voting that might not help people who want to vote early. People like the idea of doing the whole thing remote.

Leslie moved to have our Town Informational Meeting, Monday March 1st 2021, 6:30pm via an online platform only (Zoom) - no physical meeting. Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

- b) **Site capacity limits and other considerations** - no physical meeting
c) **Audio/Visual challenges for a larger audience** - no physical meeting
d) **Other logistical issues** - Wish list to make things easier:
- a. A way to submit comments or questions to the moderator prior to the meeting.
 - b. Add full page notice to the town report - regarding how this is going to work.
 - c. Add information to the town website and have it readily available there.
 - d. Ask the library to do a special election issue of the town newsletter.
 - e. We missed the boat on advertising the open seats and the town ballot deadlines.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Since this is a municipal election, we need to decide how we are going to handle the absentee ballot process. There was discussion about the average voter turnout for town meeting and the size of the checklist. Checklist if 600 plus people, voter turnout averages in the high 300's to low 400's. Thoughts were that we should return to our normal absentee ballot process for Town Meeting. Any voter who wants to vote absentee would need to request an absentee ballot.

Heather moved to send out absentee ballots as requested by individual voters for Town Meeting 2021. Leslie 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Heather and Patty are willing to help Laura process absentee ballots. Laura would like to have the extra help.

Elizabeth moved to authorize Patty and Heather to assist Laura as needed with issuing and processing absentee ballots for Town Meeting 2021. Nora 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Meredith reported that the School Board would like the BCA to designate two people to taxi ballots to Wells for tabulating. Elizabeth and Pat did this job at the last Town Meeting vote.

Terry moved to identify Elizabeth Cooper and Pat Hemenway to deliver school ballots to Wells at the close of the polls on Town Meeting day 2021. Carl 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

VOTER CHECKLIST PREPARATIONS: Patty reviewed where we are with the checklist. We now have 97 people on the challenged list because we believe they no longer live or vote in town. About 15 of those people have responded to inquiries asking to be removed from the checklist. That will happen as general maintenance. The remainder we have not heard from and do not expect to hear from unless we can reach out to them by other means than mail, since their ballots came back as undeliverable in the November General Election. It's advisable for us to continue to try to reach out to people in order to continue to clean up the list. By law these newly challenged voters cannot be removed from the checklist without direct request from the voter, for two General Election cycles (after the November 2024 General Election).

Patty will set up a meeting with Kimberly to discuss logistics for a virtual town meeting in more detail. Elizabeth and Leslie offered to help as well. Once this group has a proposed plan, we can schedule a full BCA meeting to review and put the plan into action.

There was a question about the upcoming Town Meeting deadlines.

The deadline for putting in a consent form for your name to appear on the ballot is January 25, 2021 at 5pm.

The deadline for adding a petitioned article to the warning is January 14, 2021 at 5pm.

There were questions about what offices are open this year as well.

Elizabeth agreed to pull this information together for posting on FPF and physically around town.

The board extended their thanks to Nora for her years of service as a JP. New JP's will be taking over their positions in February.

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS (if any) - none.

ADJOURN

Carl moved to adjourn at 7:47, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Clerk