



Election Modernization Committee

Date: **October 29, 2020**

Time: **7:30-9:30pm**

Location: **Conducted by Remote Participation**

Minutes

Members in attendance: Adam Badik, Greg Dennis, Walter Horn, William Logan, James O'Connor, Maxwell Palmer, Paul Parravano, Juhan Sonin, Jennifer Susse

1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Jim reiterated the Governor's executive order on remote participation.

2A. Draft Minutes of the Sept. 30 EMC Meeting

Greg reviewed minor edits that were made to the minutes.

Jim made a motion for the minutes to be accepted. Juhan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

2B. Draft of the EMC Report to Virtual Town Meeting

There was discussion as to whether we should provide a physical copy for mailing in addition to the digital copy. The consensus was to avoid wasting paper and provide only the digital copy, which allows people to print it at home if need be.

Max thought the report could benefit from being shorter and from an executive summary that summarizes the articles.

Greg made a motion to form a subcommittee with Max to make his suggested modifications to the report. Adam seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Walter made a motion to approve the report as modified by the subcommittee. Juhan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Plans Update for November Presidential Election

We discussed some of the logistics of the upcoming November election. Jim noted that there are evacuation procedures in place in case of a bomb scare of something along those lines.

We discussed the accessibility of Town Hall for early voting given the ongoing construction. In particular, the terrain when exiting Town Hall includes bricks that are difficult to navigate with a wheelchair. It was suggested that we reach out to Juli Brazile and/or Adam Chapdelaine to provide some solution, such as allowing people in wheelchairs to exit the way they came in.

4. EMC Warrant Articles 9, 12 & 13 Update

We noted that Articles 9, to extend the life of the committee, and Article 12, to consolidate the Town Meeting Member elections, are on the consent agenda.

We reviewed some of the details of Article 13 which would enact Ranked Choice Voting for town-wide offices. We discussed some of the criticisms that had been raised by Paul Schlichtmann and what we felt about them. The consensus was that they do not have merit.

Guest Peter Gast asked whether Article 13 would apply to Town Meeting Member elections. Greg said it would not.

6. Public Comment and Questions

Jim noted that a new warden is needed for Precinct 7. Peter expressed interest in helping out at the Precinct 7 polls, particularly if it would enable someone more experienced to take over the warden role.

7. New Business

No new business.

8. Adjournment

Paul motioned to adjourn. Adam seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm