



Election Modernization Committee

Date: **March 30, 2021**

Time: **7:30-9:00pm**

Location: **Conducted by Remote Participation**

Minutes

Attendance: Adam Badik, Juliana Brazile, Greg Dennis, Giovanna DeStefanis, Len Diggins, Walter Horn, William Logan, Patti Muldoon, James O'Connor, Maxwell Palmer, Paul Parravano, Juhan Sonin, Jennifer Susse, Lesley Waxman

1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Jim reviewed the Governor's order on remote participation.

2. Approval or Changes to the Meeting Agenda

Greg noted that the Select Board renumbered the articles and the Ranked Choice Voting warrant article is now Article 24, not 26 as listed in the agenda.

Jim made a motion to change the agenda to correct the article number. Greg second. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Article 24 - Ranked Choice Voting follow-up

Greg summarized the Select Board discussion and votes on Article 24. One member was in favor of proportional ranked choice for multi-seat elections; one wanted to exclude multi-seat elections; and the remaining were more comfortable with the majoritarian method. That led to a 4-1 vote in favor of the majoritarian proposal.

Even with this easier-to-explain proposal, Jennifer stressed the importance of Town Meeting Member education. She said we need lots of discussion and education, so Town Meeting Members feel sufficiently informed to vote yes.

4. Committee Report to Town Meeting

Greg said that since our primary work since the November fall town meeting had been refinement of the Ranked Choice Voting warrant article, and since we need to put together a fact sheet for the article, producing both seemed duplicative. Also, our other work was documented in our comprehensive report to the fall town meeting.

We discussed the creation of a subcommittee to produce the fact sheet for Article 24 and potentially other informational materials. Juhan suggested creating a website for the materials. We talked about who was interested in participating on the committee.

Greg moved to create a subcommittee to produce informational materials for Article 24 consisting of himself, Lesley, Juhan, and Peter Gast. Juli seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Update on Annual Town Election, Sat. April 10, 8AM-8PM

Juli gave a brief status update on the upcoming annual town election. She said her office has received between 100 and 150 requests for absentee / early voting ballots. Her office has been working a lot on voter education.

6. Public Comment and/or Questions

No public comment or questions.

7. New Business

Since Jim is establishing permanent residence in the town of Ayer, this is his last meeting. As a result, we need to elect a new chair to replace him. Jennifer nominated Greg. Len second. There were no more nominees. Greg was elected Chair unanimously.

Greg was the Clerk of the committee, so we need to elect a new Clerk. Juli nominated herself. Len seconded. There were no more nominees. Juli was elected Clerk unanimously.

8. Draft Minutes for Review, Edits and Approval * Tuesday, March 9, 2021

We made a minor edit to correct Lesley's comment in the minutes regarding the archival information about proportional representation in Cambridge being available online .

Bill made a motion to approve the minutes, Juli seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Adjournment

We set our next meeting date for Tuesday, May 25th.

Before we adjourned, by acclamation we expressed our collective gratitude to Jim for the years of service to the committee and the town.

Juli motioned to adjourn, Lesley seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.