

DATE: November 1, 2021  
TIME: 9:28 AM

**Belmont Board of Registrars of Voters**

Minutes of Public Meeting  
held July 20, 2020 10 AM  
exclusively by Zoom Videoconferencing

Members attending: Bob McGaw, Stanley Dzierzski, Steve Shestakofsky, Ellen O'Brien  
Cushman  
Other attendees: Meg Piccione, Assistant Town Clerk  
Meeting convened at 10:00 AM

Reorganization of Board

The Board held its annual reorganization vote. On a motion by Ellen to nominate Bob McGaw to continue as Chair, seconded by Stanley, the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Yes 4 Ellen, Steve, Stanley and Bob, No 0, Abstain 0

On a motion by Steve to nominate Stanley to serve as Vice chair, seconded by Bob, the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote Yes 4 Ellen, Steve, Stanley and Bob, No 0, Abstain 0

On a motion by Steve to nominate Ellen to serve as clerk, seconded by Bob, the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote Yes 4 Ellen, Steve, Stanley and Bob, No 0, Abstain 0

- General Review of the Additional Precautions Taken for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Town Election – rescheduled from April 7<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19 and going forward.
  - Town Hall has been closed – Ellen worked at the office daily and Nancy, Meg and Dan worked from home until May 1<sup>st</sup> and had to return to prepare for the election, registering voters, and making arrangements.
    - 12% participation with most of them voting by absentee. The Town Clerk's office had taken the following extraordinary actions:
    - Pushed very hard with the State to allow Towns to delay their Town Elections due to COVID-19 [Belmont rescheduled both Town Meeting and Town Election to June from April]
    - Purchased and secured Plexiglas panels for each of the election workers
    - Created new floor plans for each precinct to allow maximum space between tables and workers/ voters
    - Purchased a new drop box to allow voters to drop their absentee ballots securely since Town Hall is closed to the public.
    - Secured and purchased Personal Protective Equipment for every worker (all 100) consisting of KN95 masks from Belmont Fire, hand sanitizing stations at entrance/exits, masks for voters who arrive without them, gloves, etc.
    - Recruited many new election workers to fill the spots left vacant by a large number of our seasoned and older workers who could not/would not work. We appealed to the Town Meeting Members and committee members and voters at large – the response was astounding and we were able to staff all of the precincts, with extra workers assigned to help manage the flow of voters to ensure distance between voters
    - Full court press was utilized to encourage voters to utilize absentee voting extended for COVID-19 fears, and ballots are coming in.
    - Conducted training by video – Ellen made a video and distributed it to every election worker. The response was excellent and we'll consider adding modules.

- We asked voters to wear a mask but must let voters without a mask vote – we made separation arrangements and only one voter showed up without a mask.
- Many voters brought their own pens which was fine.
- The State legislature enacted a law that allowed towns to eliminate the check out table. Belmont did this for the first time in June and recommends we continue the practice as long as it is allowed. More pressure on the check-in folks to be accurate. Ellen asked for a vote of support for this practice in the future. Motion by Ellen, Second by Steve, unanimous vote: Yes 4 – Steve, Bob, Stanley, Ellen, No 0, Abstain 0
- Bob questioned whether the elections have enough funding to pay for all of the required changes, cleaners, etc to get through September and November with expected historic turnout in November. He will write to the Select Board. The Board members were encouraged to reach out similarly.
- Ellen again will blanket the Town with information in paper, online, social media [we have a new Facebook account for Belmont Town Clerk] and Light Bill inserts and electric sign boards. Emphasizing: Every ballot is counted that arrives on time and envelope is signed, use Early Vote By Mail and use our drop box.
- Brief discussion of the security of our paper ballots and the Early Vote by Mail/Absentees. A review of Early Voting in Person hours, election security and close of polls procedures [leaving the door to the polling place open for public inspection,] safety of poll workers.
- High School students will be encouraged to register to vote by mail instead of holding a registration session. [www.votebymailma.com](http://www.votebymailma.com) is Secretary's site.

Minutes of 2/3/20 approved unanimously Yes 4 Stanley, Bob, Steve, Ellen, No – 0, Abstain -0

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM by unanimous roll call vote: Yes 4 Stanley, Bob, Steve, Ellen, No – 0, Abstain -0

Ellen O'Brien Cushman  
Town Clerk