

Belmont Board of Registrars of Voters

June 17, 2023 10 AM

DRAFT MINUTES

Members attending: Bob McGaw, Steve Shestakofsky, Paul Minor, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Meeting convened at 10:02 AM

AGENDA:

- Per MGL ch. 54, Section 12, review and consider the lists of names of election officers/ poll workers submitted by the Democratic and Republican Town Committees prior to the June 1st deadline. Determine whether the individuals on the lists are qualified per MGL Ch 54, Section 12.

Bob reviewed the applicable statute to appoint election workers/pollworkers. The Town Clerk, at the request of the Chair of Registrars, had distributed to each of the Chairs, Democratic and Republic Town Committees, the list of all of the MA voters who have served as election workers or have recently applied to be an election worker but have not yet been trained or deployed. The Democratic and Republican party committees were contacted by the Select Board to ask for any names of their members who would like to be election workers/pollworkers. The two party chairs submitted lists, each consisted of both their party members and unenrolled voters who the party has no objection to their serving as election workers. The Democratic party chair included additional "new" workers on the list. The lists were then forwarded to the Chair of the Registrars, Bob McGaw. All of the workers are "seasonal" employees of the Town of Belmont as required by the IRS regulations.

The objective of today's meeting is to review the lists of nominated election workers to determine whether the Registrars have any objection to anyone on the lists. Each precinct must have a Warden and Clerk and four additional election workers/inspectors. In Belmont the shifts are from 6 am – 1 pm and from 1 pm to close of polls. This split shift allows us to have fresh workers throughout the day and at the close of polls and allows more voters to participate in the election process. It does also, require more workers to fill all of the slots. The "approved" lists that were sent back by the two Town Committee chairs contained all of the MA voters who were on the Town Clerk's original list, plus the additional voters from the Democratic Town Committee.

Motion by Steve Shestakofsky to approve the Democratic Town Committee submitted list of Democratic voters to serve as election workers, once qualified and trained. Seconded by Paul. Roll Call vote: Bob yes, Steve yes, Paul yes, Ellen yes Unanimous vote 4-0

Motion by Paul to approve the Republican Town Committee submitted list of Republican voters to serve as election workers, once qualified and trained. Seconded by Steve. Roll Call vote: Bob yes, Steve yes, Paul yes, Ellen yes Unanimous vote 4-0

Motion by Bob to approve the Unenrolled and Political Designation voters submitted on the lists by the Republican and Democratic Town Committees to serve as election workers, once qualified and trained. Seconded by Ellen
Roll Call vote: Bob yes, Steve yes, Paul yes, Ellen yes Unanimous vote 4-0

Bob will forward immediately the votes and lists of workers to the Select Board for vote to appoint by the August 15th deadline.

Steve remarked that this election law seems somewhat archaic because the composition of the electorate in the Commonwealth, and Belmont particularly is mostly Unenrolled voters.

Motion by Paul that if the Select Board fails to appoint the election officers, that the Board of Registrars will delegate its appointment authority to the Town Clerk and staff as their familiarity with the individual workers is detailed.

Roll Call vote: Bob yes, Steve yes, Paul yes, Ellen yes Unanimous vote 4-0

Dates of the 2024 Elections – March 5, April 7, September (TBD by Legislature), November 5.

- Per MGL ch. 54, Section 24, discuss the process to recommend a new polling location for Precinct 1, effective for 2024 when the Library demolition/construction is underway.

Ellen remarked that the Belmont Public Library will be demolished in early February of 2024 and construction will go through 2025. Therefore Precinct 1 voting place will need to be temporarily relocated.

Brief discussion of some options, adding a precinct to existing polling locations, Town Hall, private buildings, etc.

Motion by Ellen that by November 1st, she develops the criteria to be used to evaluate the possible temporary locations, a list of possible locations, and applies the criteria to the list of locations to derive one or two recommendations, all conforming to the State Laws and in accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 regarding procedures required when moving a polling location. Seconded by Steve.

Roll Call vote: Bob yes, Steve yes, Paul yes, Ellen yes Unanimous vote 4-0

- Bob had distributed a Draft of Regulations – who gets to speak at Registrars meeting. We will vote the regulations at our next regular meeting. A request that the Chair refrain from using Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc. to remain gender neutral.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman