

Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee Minutes of meeting of May 7, 2014

Committee members present: Dave Bernstein, Lynne Dunbrack, Beth Klein, Larry Krakauer, Alan Reiss, Don Schuler, and Jon Sieber.

Public attendees: Moderator Dennis Berry, Dave Watkins. Richard Turner arrived at the start of agenda item 6.

1. The meeting was called to order by Dave Bernstein at 7:32 PM.
2. Larry Krakauer was appointed secretary pro-tem.
3. Public comments were invited, but none were offered.
4. MSPU: Approve minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2014.
5. *Agenda item: Discuss the performance of Electronic Voting during the April 2014 meeting.*

Jon Sieber reported on his experience at the check-in desk – there were some minor issues with people checking in too late to vote. Larry Krakauer suggested that the Moderator’s wording “We are now ready to vote,” used to notify OTI of a vote, might be changed to reduce the possibility of being misinterpreted by the voters. Alan Reiss suggested running several test votes before the meeting start.

Dave Bernstein reported some cases of votes not counted (still a 1 or 2 in the handset display at the end of the interval). Mark Fite of OTI suspects an RF interference issue, and we may wish to make an announcement to get people to turn off Wi-Fi hotspots.

6. *Agenda item: Discuss the possibility of further automating the check-in process.*

Dave Bernstein reported a greater number of handsets rejected as “Not registered” than in previous meetings.

A Town of Hingham voter list with printed barcodes was distributed, and Dave noted that Mark Fite is willing to implement that method. State approval may be needed, since “voting books” need to be retained for a specified amount of time

MSPU (Reiss, Sieber): That Dave Bernstein and Beth Klein pursue further automating the check-in process.

7. *Agenda item: Discuss the performance of the video display during the April 2014 meeting.*

There was a discussion of possibilities, but it was concluded that if everyone is to see, multiple large monitors would be needed. The group concluded that we need to proceed slowly on any experiments in this area.

8. *Agenda item: Discuss the possibility of enabling citizens to participate in Town Meeting – including voting – from home (if it were legal).*

Dave Bernstein invited members of the public to participate in the meeting outside of the usual public comment sections. Dave Watkins reported on his experience sending out text alerts during the meeting, for which he had 150 followers.

There was discussion of the pros and cons of the possibility of voting from home, assuming all the significant hurdles could be surmounted.

MSP (Reiss, Sieber) 6-0-1 (Krakauer abstained): That the committee explore the possibility of allowing votes outside of the physical Town Meeting.

9. *Agenda item: Discuss Requirements to be included in an RFP for Wayland's Electronic Voting Service.*

Dave Bernstein requested that committee members look over the RFP that would be used under the assumption that the OTI contract has expired, and send comments via e-mail. Other than that request, this item was skipped.

10. At the end of the meeting, public comments were again invited, but again none were heard.

11. MSPU (Bernstein, Krakauer) Adjourn.

Abbreviations:

MSP: Moved, Seconded, Passed (Mover, Seconder) Yes-No-Abstained

MSPU: Moved, Seconded, Passed Unanimously (Mover, Seconder)