

Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee  
Minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2015

Committee members: Dave Bernstein, Larry Krakauer, Alan Reiss, and Jon Sieber (Beth Klein arrived late)  
Audience members: Lea Anderson, Dennis Berry (George Harris & Margo Melnicove arrived late)

Agenda item 1. Dave Bernstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Agenda item 2. Larry Krakauer was appointed secretary pro-tem.

Agenda item 3. Public comments were invited, but none were offered at this time. However, Chairman Dave Bernstein allowed members of the public to actively participate in the meeting.

Agenda item 4. MSPU (Sieber, Reiss): Approve minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2015.

Beth Klein arrived at this point. The majority of this meeting was devoted to Agenda items 5 and 6.

Agenda item 5. *Preventing Proxy Voting at Town Meeting, Moderator Decisions:*

The discussion was organized by a list of *Moderator Decisions (v2, 2015-06-29)* on suggestions for preventing proxy voting that were discussed at earlier meetings. This document was included with the meeting agenda. It broke the moderator's decisions into three categories, *Education, Prevention, and Detection and Resolution.* (Margo Melnicove and George Harris arrived during this discussion.)

Education: There was discussion of the wording of a consistent short statement, to appear in various places and to be used by the checkers, as to the illegality of voting any terminal but your own. A consensus agreed on the wording "Vote with YOUR handset only", although later in the meeting an alternate statement "Voting another's handset is not permitted" was suggested. A decision on the wording of these statements is up to the Moderator. Any statement to be included on the Town's tax bill is up to the Selectmen.

Prevention: The *Moderator Decisions* document included under the Prevention section:

3. Position and staff two "Exit Desks" with personnel that
  - a. require anyone leaving the building to surrender either a handset or a "Visitor Card"
  - b. can maintain temporary possession of handsets for bathroom users

This is intended to apply *during* the meeting, but not during the exodus *after* the meeting. Dave envisions two people manning each desk. Perhaps non-voters can be used, because you can't really hear the debate from near the doors. We'll need to add a Visitor Check-in position to the check-in stations. Since people may lose things like visitor cards, Lea Anderson suggested that we might have visitors sign a log book. The Town Clerk will be responsible for these arrangements.

Detection and Resolution: Items 1 & 2 on the *Moderator Decisions* document under this section were:

1. Anyone who observes possession of multiple handsets or proxy voting should immediately inform a member of ELVIS at the Help Desk
2. An ELVIS member who observes possession of multiple handsets or proxy voting should raise a point of order unless the voting window is open, in which case he or she should raise the point of order immediately after the voting window closes

In the discussion, it was observed that "point of order" in item 2 (and later in item 4g) should more properly be "point of privilege". Dave Bernstein noted that merely observing a handset left on a chair should not rise to the level of a point of privilege.

Item 3 on the *Moderator Decisions* document:

3. A Police Officer

- a. who observes possession of multiple handsets should immediately inform a member of ELVIS at the Help Desk
- b. who observes proxy voting should immediately inform the Moderator

Moderator Dennis Berry noted that Chapter 39, Section 17 gives the Moderator the right to eject anyone "disrupting" a meeting, but it's unclear if this legally applies to proxy voting issues, because the statutes haven't caught up with electronic voting. He will speak to Police Chief Irving regarding these Detection and Resolution items.

Margo Melnicove noted that the *Moderator Decisions* document makes no mention of closing the bleachers. Dave Bernstein replied that closing the bleachers got only two votes in an earlier meeting, and the Moderator chose to not accept that suggestion. Mr. Berry noted that the bleachers are more open than other seating, and we need the space. There was some discussion about trying to maintain more decorum in the bleachers, although it was noted that this is not a proxy voting issue.

Agenda item 6. Preventing Proxy Voting at Town Meeting, Next Steps:

Refer to the document *Moderator Decisions* (v2, 2015-06-29):

Education:

Items 1 & 2: Dave Bernstein. Item 3: Dennis Berry will brief the Selectmen (or will delegate this task).  
Items 4 & 5: Town Clerk Beth Klein. Item 6: Jon Sieber. Item 7: Dennis Berry.

Prevention:

Item 1: Jon Sieber. Item 2: Beth Klein, who will also deal with the Visitor Log (but Jon Sieber volunteered to make any signs needed). Item 3: Dave Bernstein will talk to Ben Keefe about getting any needed tables.  
Item 4: Dennis Berry. Item 5: Dave Bernstein.

Detection and Resolution:

Items 1 & 2: Dave Bernstein asked Dennis Berry to take a first cut at describing actions voters can take if infractions are observed. Item 3: Dennis Berry will talk to Police Chief Irving. Item 4c: Dave Bernstein will discuss with OTI a means of quickly identifying a terminal's owner.

Subsequent meetings: Dave Bernstein intends to call another committee meeting prior to the next Town Meeting, probably in October (as opposed to only a short meeting in the Field House just prior to the TM).

Agenda item 7. The public having been invited to participate actively during the meeting, there was no additional public comment at this point.

Agenda item 8. MSPU (Reiss, Krakauer) Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

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Abbreviations: MSP: Moved, Seconded, Passed (Mover, Second) Yes-No-Abstained  
MSPU: Moved, Seconded, Passed Unanimously (Mover, Second)