

## Minutes of the Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee

**2015-04-30**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm with Alan Reiss, Beth Klein, Dave Bernstein, Don Schuler, Jon Sieber, Larry Krakauer, and Lynne Dunbrack in attendance
2. Alan Reiss was appointed Secretary pro tem
3. Public Comment
  - o Alice Bolter - Lakeshore Drive  
Moderator takes responsibility and supported and encouraged by BoS
4. Minutes from our 2015-04-06 meeting were corrected to indicate the presence of Jon Sieber, and unanimously approved as corrected
5. Preventing Proxy Voting
  - o Moderators charge: suggest ways prevent proxy voting
  - o Proxy voting: pushing buttons on a handset not issued to you while the voting window is open
  - o Suggestions received so far:
    1. Issue "Visitor Cards" to anyone not issued a handset
    2. Require anyone leaving the building to surrender either a handset or a "visitor card"
    3. Require anyone leaving the building to "check out" of the electronic voting system
    4. Better observe activity in the bleachers, as it's easier to conceal handsets there
    5. Close the bleachers, as it's easier to conceal handsets there
    6. When issuing a handset to a resident, Checker says "Only vote with your own handset!"
    7. Post "Only vote with your own handset!" signs around Town Meeting premises
    8. Moderator announces and explains "Only vote with your own handset!" at the beginning of each session of Town Meeting
    9. Moderator reminds residents to "Only vote with your own handset!" several times during each session of Town Meeting
    10. Revise the "How to Vote Electronically" article to state "Only vote with your own handset!"

11. Revise the “How to Vote Electronically” video to state “Only vote with your own handset!”
  12. Add a section to the Warrant on page 2 entitled “Proxy Voting Is Voter Fraud” that defines proxy voting, and cites “one person, one vote” state laws and the Moderators rules (IV.D.1.b)
  13. If a resident is observed to be in possession of a handset issued to a person not present in the building, briefly recess Town Meeting so the Moderator can discuss the circumstances with that resident and take appropriate action
  14. Have a police officer confiscate all handsets from anyone who is seen in possession of multiple handsets or who returns multiple handsets upon leaving, escort offending voters from Town Meeting, and prohibit them from attending any remaining sessions
  15. Include with tax bills an insert stating that proxy voting at Town Meeting is prohibited, signed by the Board of Selectmen, the Moderator, the Town Clerk, and ELVIS
- Suggestions from the public
    - Molly Upton - restroom handset discussion
      - Alan - check out and check in
      - Don - Pass warrant article fine for taking handset out of building
      - Jon - Education, Detection, Publish names who voted, Public shame
    - Anette Lewis - Town meetings are run same as elections.
      - Mass was one of the first in country.
      - Mass Constitution says vote according to legislator
      - One vote - One person
      - MGL 51.1 - 18 years or older may be a voter (yes town meeting)
      - Handset is same as a ballot at the polls
      - MGL 56.26 - Whoever votes or attempts to cast more than one vote; violation: \$10,000 and 5 years, and is a Felony
    - George Harris
      - Secretary of State - voting process, advise and literature
      - 150 feet restriction applies to polling places
    - Linda Segal: Moderator oversees literature
    - Dave B: Literature out of scope of moderator's charge

- Lea Anderson
  - Equipping each handset with a lanyard would make it easier for voters to keep them on their person
- Larry K
  - Under what circumstances can we have a secret vote.
  - Pointed out that this is in moderator's rules.
  - Richard Turner
  - Close down bleachers, get police to move around
- Anette
  - Should not sit in bleachers unless we run out of room.
  - Bleachers make it easier to hide keypads.
- Alice Bolter
  - More formal to check out.
- Margo Melnicove
  - Advocates more draconian measures.
  - Disagrees with moderator's article.
- Linda Segal
  - Town meeting is a place to listen to each other and discuss the articles. What is town meeting all about.
- Elvis recommendations and comments
  - Beth Klein - Education and awareness
    - Moderator must make decision to ask police to remove someone. Would prefer not to have checkout.
  - Alan Reiss - Education, sign in your face as you check in
    - One Vote - One Person
    - Proxy Voting Prohibited
  - Lynn Dunbrack - Leave with Elvis
    - Handsets are like ballots
  - Larry K
    - Less draconian side at the start.
    - Handset or visitor card.
    - Get handsets from people filing out

- Don Schuler
  - Education - wrong and a crime - made clear
  - Signs articles, speaking about it.
  - The people who did it 'didn't' realize it.
  - Lanyard idea is a good idea.
  - Anything that would add a burden to the average person who is following the law.
  
- Jon Sieber
  - Education up front - puts responsibility on you.
  - Lanyard's are great.
  - Difference between checking and collecting.
  
- Dave Bernstein
  - All educational items.
  - Signs, reminding people.
  - Everybody who leaves has either a handset or visitor card.
  - Bathroom protocol needs to be figured.
  - First time voters, moderator not reminding, ELVIS shorthanded.
  - Clarify moderator's rules.
  - Handset is a ballot - should not be in possession anybody else's
  - handset - lanyard idea makes it practical.
  - Protocol on multiple handset possession.
  - We don't want people to loose faith in the ability for the
  - system to provide an accurate vote count.
  
- Public comment on ELVIS suggestions
  - Margo Melnicove - protocol to go find an ELVIS person
    - Timing 'what happens?' Inefficient response time.
  - George Harris - what happens if it happens again.
    - Must be acted upon immediately.
    - Done by point of order.
    - Best way to prevent proxy voting is to make it impossible.
    - Biometrics to prevent proxy voting.

- Molly Upton
  - Keep the handset with you at all times
  - Dave B. so what happens when this is broken in some innocent way
  - ELVIS person would sort this out.
- Beth Klein
  - Make people understand that they can get caught.
  - Deterrence.
- Jon Sieber
  - Can make checkout very tight if we follow the procedures.
- Alan Reiss
  - Have policemen make themselves more visible.
- Larry K
  - Close bleachers is a good idea.
  - The handset itself is a claim check itself.
  - One only has to show it.
- Margo Melnicove
  - Police did not know what to do with proxy voting.
  - There should be a role for the police for this.
- Anette Lewis
  - Education is not enough.
  - Handset or visitor card - lanyard idea
  - Bleachers should be closed unless needed.
  - With more than one handset should be checked out
  - Would like to be able to take handset to bathroom.
- Linda Segal
  - Should be at your seat when you vote.
  - Meeting by senior staff prior to town meeting.
  - Senior staff could be observers.
- John Flaherty
  - Education is not enough.
  - Presupposes that this was not deliberate. Perhaps it was.

- Should be some way that someone cannot leave the building without turning in a handset or a card.
- Jon Sieber
  - Being able to prove it is paramount.
  - Once you can prove it then you can be draconian.
- George Harris
  - We know whether a handset was used.
- Alan Reiss
  - Strongly objects to changing to mapping keypads to the people vs. voting.
- Jon Sieber
  - Technically can be done to match keypads to people but Dave Bernstein notes Alan Reiss's objection on basis of privacy.
- Alan Reiss
  - Education in every way
  - Signs on the partition walls behind each checkin
  - Better staff ELVIS and any other town to help to monitor
  - Deterrence
  - Just because was can technically do something doesn't mean we should do something. Don't erode privacy in any way.
  - Proxy voting education during the 'green light' periods of time.
- Dave B.
  - Education, lanyard, leaving returns handsets or visitor's cards.
  - Raise point of order if see's more than one handset.
  - Make it clear that handset is a ballot.
  - Do not keep records of which handsets voted.
- John Flaherty
  - Eliminating bleachers does not solve problem.
- Richard Turner
  - Rework WayCAM PSA to state that proxy voting is illegal

## 6. Review of Annual Town Meeting

- Electronic Check-in (Beth Klein, Town Clerk)
  - Very happy with it. Positive point.
  - Sometimes didn't have middle initials.
  - Number of check in stations - less expensive - less people
  - Got reports from OTI for state reporting
- Handsets ordered vs peak attendance (report from Ben Keefe, Facilities Director)
  - 4/6: 800 vs 333
  - 4/7: 500 vs 323
  - 4/8: 500 vs 328
  - 4/13: 800 vs 467
  - Ben has engaged with Mark Fite (OTI) to find a more economical model
- Electronic Voting System Failure 4/13
  - Chronology
    - System displayed a “Base Station Communication Failure” error message
    - Operator Michael re-booted the system
    - Rebooting the system did not clear the error; Operator contacted Mark Fite
    - Switched to backup system (~60 seconds); error cleared
  - Invalid results on keypads were the result of this failure, not independent keypad failures; time and credibility were wasted issuing new keypads
  - Need protocol to
    - Inform Moderator when system failure has occurred, and provide recovery time estimate
    - Inform ELVIS that handset replacements are not required
  - Alan: Need test votes at the beginning of the meeting to identify handsets that are powered down
  - Don: Quick succession votes can mislead voters to believe their handset isn't working; suggested using voice voting for second vote
    - Dave: instead, state that votes to “call question” are not auditable.
  - Alan: waiting a few seconds after window opens to vote will produce a faster response

- Motion Slides
  - Unexpected task: merging motion slides with other information to be displayed for each article
  - Slides were readable with 20pt font from bleachers.
  - Graphics and maps were useful
  - John Flaherty: Have second large screen
    - BOS will decide if more screens are worthwhile
  - Dave suggested changing the rules to require that all amendments be written; could scan them so they could be displayed

7. Encouraging Additional Electronic Voting Suppliers to qualify

- OTI, DSI, Meridia responded to our 2014 RFQ
- Only OTI was judged technically qualified
- DSI president attended 4/6 session of Annual Town Meeting and appeared to learn a lot
- Telecon with Meridia is planned for 5/28; ELVIS members should contact Dave Bernstein if they wish to participate

8. Public Comment: none

9. Adjourned at 9:43 PM