

Minutes of the Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee Meeting of 2016-05-26

1. The meeting was called to order by Dave Bernstein at 7:00 pm with Larry Krakauer, Alan Reiss, and Don Schuler in attendance.
2. Dave Bernstein was appointed Secretary pro tem
3. Public Comment
 - Moderator Dennis Berry reported that in his discussions with the Massachusetts Moderators Association, Wayland is viewed as the leader in electronic voting, but that some towns considers themselves “too small” to afford the technology
 - Alan Reiss commented that though it is relatively small, Wayland’s citizens have seen value in the accurate private votes that electronic voting provides
4. Minutes from our 2016-04-07 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
5. Alan Reiss described a situation that occurred during the April Town Meeting in which a citizen was issued a handset and then attempted to vote from within the check-in area, but received a “can’t vote yet” message on their handset and was not offered a paper ballot.

The mechanics of the “roster transfer” process, which can prevent a citizen who is issued a handset just before a vote from being able to participate in that vote, were reviewed. OTI cannot make this process incremental because doing so would require enhancing the handset firmware, which its manufacturer (Fleetwood) is unwilling to undertake. OTI may be able to make the “roster transfer” process faster by reducing the number of actions the electronic voting system operator must take; during an earlier phone conversation, OTI President Mark Fite said they would investigate this possibility.

During the discussion, it was noted that had this citizen voted from the floor of Town Meeting, they could have raised their hand during the vote to indicate a handset problem, and would have been provided with a paper ballot by Help Desk personnel. The consensus reached was to update the “How to Vote Electronically” document to inform citizens that they must check-in at least 5 minutes before a vote to be certain that their handset can be used in that vote, and should quickly seek assistance from the Help Desk if the “can’t vote yet” message appears on their handset.

6. Public Comment: none
7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM