

APPROVED

Study Committee on Electronic Voting in Groton Town

Meeting November 24, 2014

Minutes

Attendees:

Jason Kauppi, Mark Haddad, Michael Manugian, Brian Davis, Joshua Degen, Michael Bouchard, Ellen Baxendale

Not present: Rebecca Pine, Finance Committee member (yet to be appointed)

Organization:

Jason Kauppi was voted as Chairman, Michael Manugian as Vice-Chairman and Michael Bouchard as Clerk – all voted unanimously.

Mr. Davis will create a home page for this committee on the Town's web site. This area will be accessible to the public. It will contain minutes, documents referenced by the committee and other information as appropriate.

Mr. Kauppi read the charge of the committee as voted by the Fall 2014 Town Meeting:

“(The) Committee’s Charge shall be to study the benefits, implementation procedures and issues, and potential problems associated with the use of electronic voting systems in an “Open” form of Town Meeting, and to make its recommendations, concerning electronic voting, to the Groton Town Meeting no later than its Annual Spring Town Meeting of 2015, which recommendations may include such proposed amendments to the Town of Groton Bylaws as said Committee deems appropriate.”

Unanimous vote by committee members to accept the charge.

Mr. Haddad briefed the committee that the warrant for the Spring 2105 town Meeting will open week 1 of January and close the last week of February. Mr. Haddad suggested that a line item for electronic voting be included in the FY2016 town budget. Mr. Manugian suggested that a goal for the committee should be to have financial data available to the town meeting. Mr. Kauppi added that a reserve fund transfer could be request as an alternative. Mr. Haddad informed that the hard deadline for an article for the spring town meeting would be April 1, 2015, due to posting and publishing requirements.

The committee discussed goals.

- Answer the questions:
 - What would a town meeting participant want to know about the committee?
 - Charge
 - Who’s on the committee
 - Why would the town want to do electronic voting
- What are the benefits of electronic voting?
 - Increased participation?
 - Privacy?

APPROVED

- Time savings?
- What is the cost of electronic voting?
- How accurate is electronic voting?
- What is the reliability and auditability? What are the metrics?
- What is the scope?
- Can there be exceptions to electronic voting (e.g. visually impaired) and how would that work?
- What are potential issues, and how would they be resolved (e.g. proxy voting, security breach, device failure)?
- Which of these questions are most important?

Wayland is a town which has an open town meeting and has recently begun to use electronic voting. Mr. Kauppi noted that Wayland will be having a public meeting about this on Dec. 11 at 7:30 PM at the Wayland Town Hall. Their agenda is:

- ☐ Call to order
- ☐ Appoint Secretary pro tem
- ☐ Invite public comment
- ☐ Approve Minutes from our 2014-10-07 meeting
- ☐ Discuss ways to encourage additional Electronic Voting System suppliers to satisfy Wayland's requirements
- ☐ Discuss other means by which technology could improve Town Meeting
- ☐ Invite public comment
- ☐ Adjourn

The Committee reviewed a list of towns using or announced to use electronic voting. Members were assigned to research each community:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| • Duxbury | adopted EV for 2015 | Mark Haddad |
| • Hingham | adopted EV for 2015 | Brian Davis |
| • Ipswich | adopted EV for 2015 | Michael Manugian |
| • Westboro | adopted EV for 2015 | Mark Haddad |
| • Wareham | investigating EV | Mike Bouchard |
| • Westwood | Considered EV and rejected | Brian Davis |
| • Eastham (new) | adopted EV for 2015 | Mike Bouchard |

The committee also considered asking for a vendor presentation. This will be scheduled after initial education and research activities.

Next Meetings

- | | | |
|------------|---------|---|
| December 1 | 5:00 PM | Review handbook for application in Groton |
| December 8 | 5:00 PM | Review town research |

Respectfully,

Michael Bouchard