# Town of Groton, MA Electronic Voting (EV) Study Committee (EVSC)

# Minutes of the Meeting of June 23, 2022

## Opening

Location: via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mr. Petropoulos.

Present: Robert Anctil, Michael Bouchard, Carolyn Perkins, and Jack Petropoulos.

## Review of Agenda

## Discussion of how to contact towns.

The Committee discussed how to approach other towns. Lists of other towns using EV were reviewed including a list by Mr. Petropoulos (approx. 40 towns) and a list by Moderator Kaupi (approx. 70 towns). Mr. Kaupi’s list was most comprehensive and included various vendors. There appear to be 3 vendors that have a considerable number of customers. A list of potential questions to ask towns was reviewed. Questions were grouped into 4 categories (Is EV working? / Cost / Implementation / Experience with EV). ACTION Mr. Bouchard will select 10 towns served by each of the 3 vendors (30 total) and will assign each Committee member 2 towns to contact for each vendor (6 each). Each member will make sure to contact at least one town for each vendor. Mr. Bouchard will provide members with 4 topic areas to guide conversations and will provide sample questions for each topic area. ACTION Members will report on their interviews and get their responses back to Mr. Petropoulos by July 5 in time for publication before the July 7 meeting. We will take the outcome of these calls to determine what, if any, additional work is required regarding other town experiences.

## Risk Benefit Review.

Ms. Perkins presented her initial list of risks and benefits. Some discussion revolved around time savings with a determination that EV was both a risk and a benefit in that it could take longer than voice votes and may save time on teller votes. We agreed that this list would evolve as we learned more. Community members offered their concerns which were added to the risk side of the table.

## Discussion of Historic Town Meeting Attendance.

Mr. Bouchard reported that his review suggested that our historic peak attendance was 600 voters. We have had 2 Town Meetings over the last 18 years that exceeded that amount (700 voters). These were considered to be outliers. We discussed 600 as a useful working number of voters to be planned for. Options for supporting a smaller number of voters were discussed.

## Discussion Vendors and Prices.

Mr. Anctil presented his research regarding vendors. He reached out to 4 vendors and was able to speak with 2 (Meridia and Boxflight) Each provided quotes for supporting 600 voters.

Meridia said they could support 600 voters for $17,415 with no ongoing costs and a 3 year warranty. The town would own the units. They offered considerable initial support and impressed Mr. Antcil with their responsiveness.

Boxflight indicated that they could support 600 voters for $37,890. It is uncertain if there are ongoing costs and the town would own the units.

The other two vendors were not responsive.

We determined to speak with other towns before pursuing vendors further.

## Discussion Other Towns’ EV Studies .

Mr. Petropoulos indicated that he had seen a number of reports compiled by similar EV Committees in other towns and that the Committee might find these quite useful in guiding our work. Mr. Bouchard has placed a number of these on the EV Website. ACTION Members will review these reports and discuss the insights at our next meeting.

Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2022

Minutes were approved unanimously in a roll call vote

## Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

The next meeting will be on June 30, 2022 via Zoom, to be set up by Mr. Bouchard and posted on the Town of Groton website with the meeting agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Petropoulos, Chair