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

# Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2022

## Opening

Location: Groton-Dunstable Performing Arts Center, 344 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Mr. Petropoulos.

Present: Michael Bouchard, Michael Manugian, Carolyn Perkins, Jack Petropoulos

Absent: Rob Anctil

Guests: Judy Anderson; Peter Babel, Meridia; Mike Chiasson, Groton IT Manager; Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator; John Sopka

## Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## Approval of Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved a motion to accept the minutes of October 13 as amended.

## Discuss making a vendor recommendation

The Committee felt that both of the remaining vendors, Meridia and Option Technologies, presented solutions which met the needs of the Town of Groton. There was no compelling reason to select one or the other. As a result, a motion was made to let the Town Manager decide which vendor to select as part of the procurement process. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Review invitation of Meridia for dinner

Mr. Petropoulos had desired to invite Mr. Babel to dinner as a thank you for agreeing to setup and run the voting computer for the demo. Since Mr. Babel represented one of the two vendors under consideration, Mr. Petropoulos had asked the Town Manager and the state ethics committee if this was appropriate. Both agreed it was appropriate provided that Electronic Voting would not be discussed. However, some members of the Committee felt that this might give the appearance of favoritism towards a particular vendor.

The Committee then agreed by consensus that it would be best not to proceed with a dinner with the vendor representative outside of a publicly posted meeting.

## Prepare for Fall Town Meeting

Committee members and Mr. Chiasson, Babel, and Kauppi with the assistance of guests Ms. Anderson and Mr. Sopka made physical arrangements for the presentation and demo for tomorrow’s Town Meeting. After the equipment was setup, Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Petropoulos did a complete run through of the handoff from the presenter, Mr. Bouchard, to the individual leading the demo, Mr. Petropoulos, through to the completion of the demo. Other board members and guests acted as Town Meeting attendees for the run-through. As a result, a number of changes were made to the presentation script.

The following people agreed to be present early on Saturday to hand out clickers: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Bouchard, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Sopka.

The following people agreed to stay after the end of Town Meeting to collect clickers from those leaving late: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Manugian, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Sopka.

All participants agreed to be present at the Performing Arts Center at 8:00 am on Saturday morning in order to be ready for early Town Meeting arrivals.

## Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held via Zoom on Thursday November 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm to be posted with the agenda by Mr. Bouchard on the Town of Groton website.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Manugian, Clerk