

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 6/23/2020

Where: Remote and Virtual via Zoom

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Michelle Lefkowitz, Larry Granillo, Jim Rader, Kate Baldwin, Lenore Broughton, Annie Schneider, Martha Gile, Helen Rock, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Weiwei Wang

Also Present: Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Lis

Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

Meeting Length: The meeting length was set for 1 hour.

Minutes: Helen Rock made a motion to amend the minutes to correct a typo, seconded by Jim Rader. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Rader made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Helen Rock. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Lea Terhune inquired about the process for the voter checklist being updated when a voter moves from one Vermont town to another. Amy Bovee replied that when a clerk enters a new voter registration, the State's software system will search the entire state to see if a record for that voter already exists. If a record is found, the voter is transferred from the old town to the new town. Lea Terhune also asked how the Ward 4 polling place will be operated safely given that voters cross paths while entering and exiting through a narrow hallway. Amy Bovee replied that she had met with the Ward Clerk and had developed a system to allow for one way traffic. Voters will exit through a side door rather than exiting through the hallway.

Clerk's Report/Prepare for August Election: Amy Bovee reported that the application process to fill board seats that will soon be expiring is underway. She reported that they had received 5 applications for 4 seats, and that the plan is for City Council to make appointments at their June 29 meeting.

Amy Bovee reported that early voting had begun, and they had already issued 700 absentee ballots in the first week, which is a much higher number than usual. She also reported that postcards to all registered voters should be going out soon. Board members inquired if a draft of the postcard was available. Amy Bovee replied that she had not yet seen a draft, but would share it with the Board once available.

Amy Bovee reported that she had conversations with the Secretary of State's Office about how to reach student voters who will not be living in their dorms when the postcards go out in late June or July. The Secretary of State's Office had indicated that they would be willing to do outreach specific to students in early September before November ballots are sent out. Kate Baldwin offered to reach out to a contact

at UVM to begin this conversation, and to try to find out who the appropriate contact at Champlain College would be.

Amy Bovee reported that she had begun to have conversations with Ward Clerks about making changes to setup to allow for greater social distancing and one way traffic. Board members expressed safety concerns about working at the polls in person and inquired if working remotely would be a possibility. Amy Bovee said she would work with the City Attorney's Office to determine if this would be possible or legal.

Jim Rader reported that he had reached out to the Secretary of State's Office regarding the format of the absentee ballot envelopes and the public outreach that will be done leading up to the next elections. Although the time for comment on the envelope design has passed, he agreed to follow up about the plan for public outreach. Helen Rock requested language that Board members could post on their Front Porch Forums. Amy Bovee agreed to send this information to the Board.

On a motion by Jim Rader, seconded by Martha Gile, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk