

Approved: 8/11/2020

Board of Registrars

Minutes

July 30, 2020, 4:35pm

The meeting was held remotely via zoom

Members present: Joanne Mente, Chair, Wendy McNally, Kaari Mai Tari, Town Clerk

Discussion: Review of polling place accessibility amid social distancing requirements and concern for voter and election personnel safety.

K. Tari indicated that the State's Elections Division is urging that we review polling locations.

Changes during COVID-19: We may eliminate check out tables and use electronic polling devices. This will allow us to manage a smaller pool of election workers. We cannot require people to wear facemasks. State has ordered PPEs for voters and Election Workers. We will have sneeze guards set up and Visors for election workers.

K. Tari will provide draft layouts of polling places for a follow up discussion by the Board. She will also seek input from Election Wardens and Clerks as well as building managers.

Several voters from Concord and surrounding towns have applied to become Election Workers.

Registrars expressed concerns with Harvey Wheeler Community Center and 141 Keyes Rd. Keeping two precinct separated at HWCC has been a problem in the past. K. Tari will look at changing orientation for help eliminate that issue. K. Tari will work on a plan, mindful of the space restrictions at Keyes Rd.

The multipurpose room at Hunt Gymnasium has only access point that will have to be used for both check in and exiting voters. Someone may have to be posted at the door to help stagger voters entering and exiting the polling place.

Kaari will share drawings. Kaari will get feedback from Wardens & Clerks and building managers.

W. McNally asked if after school program would be happening during voting at Hunt Recreation center? K. Tari will as the Recreation Department, though school will not yet be in session.

J. Mente asked if the High School is available. While it is handicapped accessible, it is also a long walk into the high school.

We are advised against consolidating polling places out of concern for social distancing, but if CCHS is available, it might help address issues in one or two polling locations.

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For presidential election should look at other locations for HWCC to avoid having two precincts for one polling location.

We don't know if we'll have further restrictions for polling locations. There is a polling place access checklist that Kaari will ask DPW or facilities to help with to make sure polling locations are truly accessible.

Next meeting August 6th at 4:30 to review polling place set up for all precincts.

The meeting ended at 4:55pm.