

**Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee (“ELVIS”)
Minutes of the Meeting of 2023-01-26**

The **bold** items below are meeting agenda items.

Call to order: This meeting was held via Zoom. Chairman Dave Bernstein called the meeting to order at 9:02pm. The ELVIS committee members in attendance, in addition to Chairman Bernstein, were Lynne Dunbrack, Larry Krakauer, Trudy Reid, Alan Reiss, and Don Schuler.

Wayland Town Meeting Moderator Dennis Berry also attended, initially by telephone, and then eventually by Zoom.

Bernstein: Introduced Trudy Reid, who as Wayland Town Clerk has been added to the Elvis committee.

Appoint secretary pro tem: Larry Krakauer was appointed secretary pro tem.

Invite public comment: Nobody else logged in to the meeting.

Approve the minutes of our meeting of September 1, 2022:

Krakauer: I noted an error in the heading, the second line. The year needs to be corrected from 2021 to 2022. Chairman Bernstein made the correction in the draft.

Moved (Reiss), Seconded (Krakauer), passed 4-0-2: *Approve the minutes of our meeting of September 1, 2022.* (Dunbrack and Reid abstained)

Review ELVIS responsibilities during the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, which will begin on Monday May 1 in the High School Field House

Bernstein: Displayed a document, “May 2023 Annual Town Meeting.docx”, with a tentative schedule of activities to prepare for the Town Meeting. This will be an “Annual” Town Meeting to be held in the Field House on May 1, 2023, with additional sessions on May 2 and May 3 if necessary.

Bernstein: Asked if we are likely to need a second venue.

Berry (by telephone) I don’t think there are enough controversial issues to require a second venue.

Bernstein: Since it’s been a while since we’ve had a meeting in the Field House, we will need to check that the cable setup in there is still in good shape. We also need to know how the chairs will be configured, so we can get the transceivers set up correctly.

Berry: We intend to use the “Moderator North” configuration.

Bernstein: One of the items specifies, “Send voter extract to Electronic Voting Services supplier”.

Reid: I need to wait until after the last day of voter registration to send this, which is only about 10-days before the Town Meeting.

Bernstein: I'll discuss this with Mark Fite [of OTI, the Electronic Voting Services supplier], to see if this is an issue.

Reid: I'll get the exact date to you.

Schuler: I'll post the survey (used to estimate attendance) for three weeks. Who do I deal with regarding Survey Monkey? (The Town holds the Survey Monkey license).

Reid: Probably Chris Costello.

Krakauer: Do we plan to take any Covid precautions at the meeting?

Bernstein: Register any questions or concerns with the Select Board.

(Dennis Berry joined the meeting on Zoom at this point, 9:20pm.)

Berry: The Selectmen made the decision to use the Field House three or four months ago.

Bernstein: Of course, changes in the Covid situation could cause a change.

Berry: I'll discuss the Covid issue with Selectman Tom Fay tomorrow, and note that some people have concerns about it.

Review Progress towards "Remote Participation in Town Meeting":

Bernstein: Noted that the first impediment to Remote Participation is its technical implementation. He then displayed "Presentations on Wayland's Proposed Approach to Remote Participation in Open Town Meeting" (PowerPoint). See the "Presentation Statistics" in that document. A suggestion has been made to show the queue of waiting speakers to all side (at the venue and remote users). State Rep Denise Garlick (Needham) has also submitted a bill.

Bernstein: In my presentation to Sharon, the Town Manager was Fred Turkington, who was at Wayland when we rolled out Electronic Voting. He was particularly interested.

If our bill is approved, the plan would be to run a test, and with what we learn, submit a new bill to start to involve other towns. Vendors will not supply what we need if only Wayland is a customer.

Bernstein: Displayed his "Requirements" document, "Requirements for the Support of On-Premises and Remote Participation at Wayland's Open Town Meeting" (Version 1 2023-01-23). This proposes ways of surmounting the technical impediments.

Moved (Dunbrack), Seconded (Reiss), passed 6-0-0: *To approve this document as Version 1 of the requirements.*

Bernstein: The other impediment to Remote Participation is that it's currently illegal. He then displayed, "Remote Participation Legislative Timetable". After the Town Meeting passed the article to submit a bill, it was 9 months before Dave Watkins could meet with the Town Counsel. Lauren Goldberg added to the draft legislation a call for the Select Board to create a committee to oversee the preparations for, and execution of, Remote Participation.

Rep. Carmen Gentile submitted the bill, House Bill No. 4985, submitted by Representatives Carmine Gentile and Alice Peisch. Some of the selectmen were upset at the time that the bill was submitted without their having approved it. Having been submitted so late, the bill did not get passed that session.

Carmine Gentile strongly urged the Select Board to simply re-submit the same bill for the upcoming session. But over Dave Bernstein's objection, the Select Board voted to modify the part about creating a committee, before re-submitting it.

Berry: One member felt strongly about the committee issue, and the others voted with him.

Bernstein: My view: we've done what we can on the technical side. As far as shepherding the legislation, that is now in the Select Board's court. The Elvis Committee can't do much at this point until the bill passes.

Reid: Will the Town no longer get support from the Elvis committee?

Bernstein: The committee will continue to support the Town in holding meetings and preparing RFP's for potential vendors. At this point, he read the Elvis Committee's mission statement, and noted that "Everything in that mission statement still applies. Our support of Remote Participation has been done outside our stated mission."

Invite public comment: No public comment appeared.

Adjourn: Moved (Schuler) Seconded (Dunbrack): *To adjourn* passed 6-0-0.

Bernstein: Declared the meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.