

Shelter Harbore Fire District - Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

SHFD Final Ad Hoc Voting Committee Meeting - May 8th 2021

Draft Minutes

8:42 AM Call to Order and Attendance.

All committee members present except Deming Sherman who joined at 8:43AM following IT challenges.

Committee chairs - Patrick Kinney, Paul Eldridge

Committee in attendance - Nancy Fertig, Peter Hark, Robert Palumbo, Deming Sherman, Tom Lloyd.

Committee not attending - Livia Carega

Minutes of previous meeting were approved

Motion to review list meeting's minutes - seconded and accepted by all.

Minutes Passed.

Deming Sherman joined at 8:43AM.

Paul Eldridge proposed to move to vote as opposed to walking through report one more time, as Committee members are all familiar with the content.

Peter Hark shared his view that the presentation was overly biased, that multi-property owners are discriminated against, and they are getting blamed for proxy harvesting. On proxy, feels that moving to 2 proxies per person doesn't solve the issue. In sum, the report doesn't reflect his opinion so asked that the Committee respect his disagreement. Nancy Fertig asked if Peter Hark will present an alternate report or proposal, and Peter Hark said that he may.

Paul Eldridge refuted the claim that the report is biased and walked through results of previous election including one committee member's ten votes. These were general proxies - even if voted according to neighbor's wishes, this is not mandatory, and leaves room for bad behavior.

Deming Sherman also refuted that report was biased.

Dissenting / disagreeing opinions respected and Patrick Kinney proposed motion to move to a vote which was seconded, and voted in favor by 6 committee members except 1, Peter Hark, who dissented. Motion passed 6 to 1 to move to a vote.

Vote took place on the report being presented to the Community. 6 in favor with 1 dissent by Peter Hark. Motion thus carried 6 to 1 approving presentation of the report to the Community.

Patrick Kinney shared that the SHFD Ad Hoc Voting Committee has now completed it's work and thanked the Committee.

Paul Eldridge shared that there was a communication shared by Richard Gregory, Assessor, (to be attached) for consideration by the community. It's questions is in essence, can we use the former voting structure one more time at this summer's annual meeting, if we have concluded that it is unconstitutional. Would there be litigation? To be reviewed and addressed at a future date.

Motion to Dismiss meeting - Seconded and all agreed.