

AD HOC VOTING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Motion

The following motion was presented by Betty Waters which was seconded by Dorothy Bruno:

I move we establish a committee with Board Members and members of the community to study the Shelter Harbor Fire District voting practices including multiple votes based on multiple properties and proxy voting. Said committee to prepare a report with options going forward to the community by March 15, 2021.

Findings

Current Voting Provisions and Practices

ARTICLE 2 QUALIFIED VOTERS

Section 1. (a) Every person of the age of majority according to the laws of the State of Rhode Island, or a duly authorized representative of any owner, which is not a person, having a forty percent (40%) or greater undivided present interest in real property in the Shelter Harbor Fire District, which, if by deed has been recorded in the Land Evidence Records of the Town of Westerly, or if by will or laws of intestacy, the estate from which derived shall have been finally admitted to probate by the Probate Court having jurisdiction thereof, at least sixty (60) days prior to any meeting, or who can otherwise substantiate such ownership by legal instrument duly recorded, or otherwise, to the satisfaction of the Clerk of the District, or other Officer authorized by the District to do so, or who is a qualified voter of the Town of Westerly and resides in the District, shall have the right to vote at any District meeting.

(b) In addition, such voter must properly register as a voter in manner and form that the District may determine in its Bylaws.

(c) Every person so qualified and registered to vote shall vote in person or by written, signed proxy, the form of which shall be designated by the Board of Governors upon the advice of District Counsel. The proxy shall be given only to a voter's spouse, a member of the voter's household who may be qualified to vote, or to a qualified and registered voter of the Shelter Harbor Fire District. No person shall represent, as proxy, more than three (3) voters at any meeting.

Committee Proposal

1. Qualified Voter definition – no change recommended.
2. Number of Votes Cast - Amend By-Laws as necessary to provide that a qualified voter, whether qualified on the basis as a property owner or resident of the District, shall be entitled to cast only one vote in any election.

3. Proxy Voting – no change recommended.

Approved by a vote of the Ad Hoc Committee at a duly held meeting on the ____ day of March, 2021.

Secretary