

AD HOC VOTING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

The following proposes a path to amend the voting process in the Shelter Harbor Fire District (SHFD). It is written in plain language and is not intended to be a By-Law insertion.

1) Eligible Voters

The SHFD would limit owners of multiple properties to one vote, further defined to mean one vote per 40% property owner, regardless of how many properties were owned by an individual, couple or entity (LLC, Trust, etc.). For clarification, any individual or couple who own more than one piece of property in SHFD, would be afforded one vote or one vote each, dependent upon holding a 40% interest (not multiple votes for multiple properties).

2) Proxies

So that no eligible voter is disenfranchised, a voting provision would be provided for those who cannot or will not be present at an Annual or Special Meeting.

I envision the following two possibilities:

A. Change the proxy process to an Absentee Voter Form process*

- The Absentee Voter Form will include all items subject to a vote at an Annual or Special Meeting of the SHFD
 - o Approval of the Budget (Dollar amount will be named)
 - o Election of Officers
 - Moderator (name of candidate will be shown)
 - Treasurer (name of candidate will be shown)
 - Tax Collector/Assessor (name of candidate will be shown)
 - Clerk (name of candidate will be shown)
 - o Election of Members of the Board of Governors (two positions – candidate names will be shown)
 - o Motion or Motions – motion or motions will be shown

**Although an Absentee Voter Form would enable landowners to vote in advance of the Special or Annual Meeting, budgets and motions are frequently amended or replaced at the meeting. In that event, an early vote would necessarily be voided.*

B. Combine the above Absentee Voter form with the current proxy provisions. Theoretically, only changes to the budget and/or motions would be subject to proxy voting.

- an absentee voter would provide his/her completed form to another eligible voter prior to the meeting, granting that person discretion to vote as his/her proxy on any unforeseen matter.
- The proxy provision would avoid the forfeiture of an absentee vote in the event of changes/amendments made at the Special or Annual Meeting.

3) Alternate Voting Method

The SHFD should select an off-the-shelf electronic voting application for us by residents who cannot attend an Annual or Special Meeting and who elect not to provide a proxy. The electronic voting application would only be able to be used if permitted by the regulations of the State of Rhode Island or by the issuance of an Executive Order which may be issued from time to time.