

BCA Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Present: Denise Wheeler, Barbara Butler, Wilson Hughes, Dillon Burns, Clif Emmons, Janet Pocarobba, Sharon Winn Fannon, Bill Davis, Michael Loignon, Judith Robert

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Review, Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
4. Approve Minutes: Dillon Burns moved and Judy Robert seconded to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting, with edits as discussed. The motion was voted and passed unanimously (Sharon Winn Fannon, Janet Pocarobba, Michael Loignon and Rose Pelchuck abstained because they were not present at that meeting).

Denise Wheeler moved and Judy Robert seconded to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2018 meeting, with edits as discussed. The motion was voted and passed unanimously (Barbara Butler, Janet Pocarobba, Michael Loignon abstained because they were not present at that meeting).

5. Town Meeting 2021 Procedures: The Town Clerk explained changes to the Town Meeting Day election as a result of COVID-19. The legislature passed the bill H-48 into law that allowed change in procedure for Town Meeting and elections in this period. It gives the municipality the ability to postpone the election or move all voting to Australian ballot (the Calais Selectboard voted to follow this option at their 12/28/2020 meeting). The Office has been working on the Warning and the ballot that now includes the floor votes. All of the costs for the ballots, programming the tabulators, etc. is being borne by state. A public information hearing will be held via Zoom on February 20, led by Town Moderator Gus Seelig. It will go through all of the articles of the warning. There are no contested offices at this point, so a candidate's forum is not planned in Calais. Clif Emmons is organizing trainings for people who want to become more familiar with Zoom and for practicing procedures to ensure the smooth operation of the virtual information meeting.

The Selectboard had to vote on whether voters had to request their ballots. The school district is an umbrella municipality that has a shared ballot among five towns; but each of those towns has its own town ballot. Essentially the five towns of the district have agreed to follow the vote of the school board: to mail all ballots to all voters. Every registered voter in Calais will receive one mailing which will include the town and school ballot that can be returned via drop box, mail, or at the election site on election day.

A BCA vote is needed to approve use of the tabulator to count ballots on Town Meeting. It allows for a safer process during COVID-19 (uses less volunteers on March 2, eliminates the

need for counters to sit close to each other, and is paid for by the state). School ballots will need to be delivered to Berlin by two election officials; the Town Clerk will learn whether town election officials are expected to wait and observe.

Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the use of the tabulator for Town Meeting vote March 2, 2021 election. Barbara Butler seconded, and the motion was voted and passed 9-0.

6. Adjournment: Barbara Butler made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm. The motion was seconded by Rose Pelchuck and passed unanimously.

Date: 2/1/21 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the BCA at the 11/1/2021 meeting