

**JAMESTOWN ELECTIONS TRAINING AND ADVISORY AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Linda Jamison, Chair of the Committee called the meeting of the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee to order at 11:07 a.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall small conference room at 93 Narragansett Avenue.

II. ROLL CALL

A scheduled meeting of the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee was held on March 27, 2024. Committee members present were as follows: Ms. Nancy Beye, Ms. Laura Goldstein, Ms. Linda Jamison, Ms. Daphne Meredith, Ms. Marlene Murphy, and Mr. Kenneth Newman.

Also in attendance was Mr. Keith Ford, Deputy Town Clerk / Clerk to the Board of Canvassers.

III. MINUTES

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/ or Vote:

1.) Minutes of the: Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee meeting of March 7, 2024

Ms. Murphy moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Mr. Newman seconded the motion and the motion was approved as follows: Ms. Beye, Aye; Ms. Goldstein, Aye; Ms. Jamison, Aye; Ms. Meredith Aye; Ms. Murphy, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye. The vote passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS / OPEN FORUM

No public comment was given

V. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Training Program and Development

1.) Jamestown voter brochure and how to disseminate

Ms. Goldstein opened the discussion of version 2, Jamestown Voter Information 2024 brochure (the " Brochure"). The purpose of the Brochure is to answer questions frequently asked by voters during elections, in advance of elections. Ms. Murphy raised a question regarding the section entitled "Change of Address" and Mr. Ford clarified that the Department of Motor Vehicles does not issue a new license for an address change; thus, a voter's license does not have to match the Board of Canvassers' records. However, a discrepancy between an address on a license and that in the Board of Canvassers' database necessitates the voter's completion of a "Voter Affirmation" form in order to update the address in the Board of Canvassers records. Language in the brochure was changed to clarify accordingly. The committee discussed the current rules and processes regarding disaffiliation and noted that the rules do not provide for detailed, written guidance to voters at this time.

The Committee then turned to a discussion of best practices for disseminating the Brochure. Initial ideas included: placement of the Brochure on the town's website under "Voter Registration" and perhaps the website's news feed, as well as inclusion of the Brochure as an insert to the Jamestown Press. In the past the Jamestown Press has printed voter materials as a courtesy to the town, at no cost to the town. A brief conversation followed regarding the printing cost of a paper Brochure. Other sources of funding were discussed, including the possibility of monies from the budget of the Board of Canvassers and/ or the Town Clerk's budget. The importance of timing was also noted as the Committee agreed it is important to have the Brochure in the hands of voters in advance of early voting. Mr. Newman volunteered to approach the Jamestown Press.

At this point in the Committee proceedings, Ms. Beye excused herself.

Other local town locations and private businesses were mentioned as places where the Brochure might be placed, such as the Philomenian Library, McQuade's Marketplace, BankNewport, and other public and private glassed vitrines. Ms. Meredith suggested adding QR code to the brochure and publicizing the code as well.

Mr. Newman suggested that a copy of version 3 of the Brochure, as updated during this meeting, be sent to Assistant Secretary for Elections Rob Rock for his review. Ms Goldstein moved that the Brochure, as amended per today's discussion, be sent for review to the following: Mr. Rock, the Assistant Secretary of State for Elections, the Jamestown Board of Canvassers, and the State Board of Elections. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. Vote: Ms. Goldstein, Aye; Ms. Jamison, Aye; Ms. Meredith Aye; Ms. Murphy, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye. The vote passed unanimously.

B.) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Advisory Role

- 1.) Compile list of issues / problems that arise during signature gathering, early voting, primaries and general elections.

The Committee proceeded to generate a list of issues that have arisen locally and/ or in other communities of which we are aware, relating to the aforementioned. The following issues were identified:

- General election safety and orderly voting, including maintaining and managing appropriate voter conduct at the polls and when to require/request the presence of law enforcement;
- The voting process, including, for example, how to accommodate both poll checkers and First Amendment auditors in accordance with the law
- How to address voter concerns raised at the polls, such as implicit partisanship (example: the color of signage)
- How best to administer the process of voting when there are long lines
- The education of prospective candidates to insure access for all


- The need for voter education concerning the consistency of signatures to avoid invalidation of signatures
- Future voter education/ outreach

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jamison suggested discussing/exploring the Federal Election Commission's online training curriculum when the Committee elaborates solutions to the issues generated above at its next meeting. Future meeting dates were reviewed.

Ms. Meredith made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Goldstein, Aye; Ms. Jamison, Aye; Ms. Meredith Aye; Ms. Murphy, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye. The vote passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Attest:



Daphne Meredith
Secretary

Cc: Town Council Members(5)
Roberta Fagan, Town Clerk