

**JAMESTOWN ELECTIONS TRAINING AND ADVISORY AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY APRIL 3, 2024
11:00 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 Town Council chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue.

II. ROLL CALL

A scheduled meeting of the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2024. Committee members present were as follows: Ms. Laura Goldstein, Ms. Linda Jamison, Ms. Daphne Meredith, Ms. Marlene Murphy, and Mr. Kenneth Newman.

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 27, 2024

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

Ms. Jamison requested corrections or additions to the minutes. There being none, Mr. Newman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Goldstein seconded the motion and it was approved as follows: 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. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

1.) Update on Jamestown voter brochure and dissemination

Ms. Goldstein presented version 3, Jamestown Voter Information 2024 brochure (the " Brochure"), incorporating the changes approved at the meeting of March 27. The purpose of the Brochure is to answer questions frequently asked by voters during elections, in advance of elections.

The Committee then turned to a discussion of Brochure dissemination. Mr. Newman informed the Committee that the Jamestown Press has agreed to pay for the printing of the Brochure and to insert it in an issue of the Jamestown Press prior to the election cycle at no cost to the

Town of Jamestown. Committee members emphasized the importance of timing and stressed that it is crucial to have the Brochure in the hands of voters in advance of early voting.

A discussion followed about additional voter materials that have been produced by the Jamestown Press in the past, specifically the multi-page voter information supplement (the "Supplement"), identifying candidates and their positions, and describing referendum issues, among other things. There was agreement among the Committee that the Supplement was useful and that a similar supplement for the 2024 election cycle would be meaningful and desirable. In addition, a propos of the Jamestown Press, it was noted that a recent article on changes to the Jamestown Charter pertinent to candidates, ballots, and the electoral process may have confused and/or failed to adequately inform voters. To further the receipt of accurate and timely information by voters, the Committee agreed to add to the category of "Issues" and "New Business" (below), steps/ provisions toward collaboration with the Jamestown Press.

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

1.) Continue to work on list of issues/problems and next steps

The Committee continued to generate the list of issues that have arisen locally and/ or in other communities of which we are aware, relating to elections and voting procedures. It is our understanding that this list will be shared with our local Board of Canvassers, the statewide Association of Boards of Canvassers, the State Board of Elections, and the Secretary of State. The following issues/problems/areas for improvement have been identified to date, with new items appearing ***bolded and in italics***:

- 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, ***the color of the "I Voted" stickers***)
- 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
- ***Education of poll workers re: legality of photos/videos in polling place***
- ***Track status of pending "Disaffiliation" bill in State Legislature to address voter confusion/lack of clarity on the topic***
- ***Collaboration with local press/news outlets to insure factual accuracy and timeliness of voter education and informational materials/articles***
- ***Mail-in ballots, general issues***
- ***Improve appearance of ballots, especially primary ballots, to reduce voter confusion***
- ***How best to manage, and give voters notice of, changes in polling location***
- ***Accountability and accessibility of State Board of Elections and its members***

- ***Problems with State Board of Elections- required documentation, record-keeping, and follow-up; examples:***
 - ***“Affidavit of Ballot Box Inspection”--no signature line***
 - ***“Discrepancy Reports”--no follow-up***

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

1.) Develop a Committee checklist

To best follow through on proposed actions, the Committee agreed to create a list of action items, as appropriate, following each meeting’s discussion. Today’s list is as follows:

The Brochure:

- Mr. Newman to deliver to Secretary of State’s office for review
- Mr. Newman to deliver to Jamestown Board of Canvassers for review
- Mr. Ford, Deputy Town Clerk / Clerk to the Board of Canvassers, to deliver to the State Board of Elections for review

Collaboration with the Jamestown Press:

- Mr. Newman to invite Mr. Tim Riel, editor of the Jamestown Press to attend this committee’s meeting on April 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ms. Goldstein to generate a list of questions for Mr. Riel

General poll worker information:

- The Committee to generate a list of helpful tips for poll workers for use on election days

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

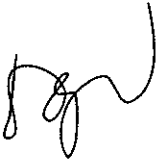
1.) Provide overview of FEC (Federal Election Commission) training available for new Federal candidates

Ms. Jamison provided sample materials from the FEC website for the Committee's review and noted that, in her experience, the FEC is exceptional at training. She explained that for a modest fee, information and training webinars are available to, among others, candidates, campaign committees, and campaign treasurers on a variety of topics, including campaign finance laws. In addition, the FEC provides one-on-one mentorship by assigning “analysts.” The FEC also provides weekly tips and alerts about relevant new court decisions. Legal resources are also provided as necessary: there is an attorney on staff to answer questions. The Committee discussed the possibility of generating something similar at the state level- an undertaking which would be under the auspices of the State Board of Elections- and noted that this would enhance the process of candidacy for all who desire it, making standing for elected office more accessible to all.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn with a second by Ms. Goldstein. Vote: Ms. Goldstein, Aye; Ms. Jamison, Aye; Ms. Meredith Aye; Ms. Murphy, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye. The vote passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:29 a.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Meredith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daphne Meredith
Secretary

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