

Registration Committee Meeting Minutes May 3, 2018

Convening meeting of Registration Committee was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 in the Buzz Ware Village Center. Meeting was called to order by Cecilia Vore, convener.

Present were: Mike Curtis, Julia MacNeil, Jan Westerhouse, Barbara Macklem, Barbara Henry, Mary Murphy, and Cecilia Vore.

- Cecilia Vore was unanimously elected chair of the committee.

- **Discussion** of the 1993 revision of the Act to Reincorporate changing the committee structure to five residents (previously three), plus the senior Trustee, the Village Secretary, and Clerk of the Trustees (ex officio). Determination was made that the Trustee and Secretary are members of the committee, and Clerk is ex officio.

- **Discussion** of the requirement for passing a referendum, re-examining "majority of all residents." The discussion centered around not returning a referendum ballot is the same as a "no" vote according to the "majority of all residents" requirement. Residents do not have an opportunity to abstain from the referendum, since a non-vote has the same effect as a "no" vote. As an example, in the 2017 budget referendum, 47 people defeated a line item that 172 people had approved. This was because, under the charter, 174 "yes" votes were required to pass an item (over 50% of the 346 total eligible voters). Is this what the residents want?

Would it be better to change the required approval to the "majority of those who cast ballots"?

It was agreed that, to elect a Trustee and for approval of the budget, a high level of participation is needed and a higher standard of "yes" votes is needed - higher than a simple majority of those voting.

After much discussion, it was agreed that Cecilia would take the issue to the June Advisory Committee meeting. If that body agrees, it will be brought up at the June Town Meeting, and an article placed in the July/August Arden Page.

- **Committee tasks** were assigned as follows:

Welcome packages - Mary Murphy

Fall Election - Jan Westerhouse

March Election - Barbara Macklem

Secretary/archives/reports/FOIA compliance/remind committee members of upcoming events -
Barbara Henry

Database/resident records/web page - Cecilia Vore

Cecilia will attend the June Advisory meeting.

Jan will attend the September Advisory meeting.

Barbara H. will attend the January Advisory meeting.

Barbara M. will attend the March Advisory meeting.

Submitted,

Barbara Henry

Secretary, Registration Committee