

Election Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Nov 16, 2016

Board Members attending: Charlene M, (Election Chair), Charlotte M, Dennis R, Ed D, Rudy P, Gerald D, Richard J, Mark S, (via cell phone) Newman B (arrived 7:40 pm)
Landowners attending: Jeff L, Jerry L, Linda U, Sally M, Leo K, Dorothy K, Joe T, Claudette D, Kathleen R, Wendy R, Ia W, Donna A, Svend A, Andrea S (via cell phone),
Also attending: Iona Y (Admin Assistant), John C (NG Ombudsman), Tim M

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Election Procedures were discussed.
2. The Nov 12 annual meeting vote was discussed.

Charlene read an email from George M, received just before the committee meeting; Nov 16 at 6:11 p.m. George M was one of seven board candidates on the South Glastonbury ballot. George's email stated he was withdrawing from participation, even if he were to be elected by a change in the vote.

A problem with payments found on Saturday morning was explored. Kathleen R's payment was not sent with her absentee ballot, but mailed in a separate envelope. Kathleen's check was found Saturday morning, Nov. 12, about 9:00 a.m. Kathleen stated she had mailed her payment at the end of October. Chris and Ia W's payment was also found on Saturday morning, even though it had been mailed in mid-October.

All absentee ballots were processed early Saturday morning. Kathleen R's payment was not found until after the absentee ballots had been processed. Her ballot was changed to count for the 2 SG votes she appeared to be eligible for at the time. The records showed that her other 3 properties in SG had an outstanding balance and those 3 votes were erroneously disqualified due to the unknown payment.

A landowner stated that the payment should have been included in the absentee ballot envelope. Kathleen stated her payment was in a separate envelope.

Chris and Ia W, were in attendance at the Annual meeting and did not vote by absentee ballot. Their payment was found by the Treasurer and they voted with an in-person ballot.

Iona Y, Administrative Assistant, picked up the absentee ballots from the mailbox and stored them until the day of the election. It's possible that two payment envelopes were mixed in with these ballots and not processed by the Treasurer during the weeks before the election.

Discussion included member comments and suggestions on how to avoid the problem of payments not being credited before an absentee ballot was processed which resulted in the problem of Kathleen R's 3 votes not being counted.

1. A cut off date for payments before the day of the election was suggested.
2. October 31 was suggested as the cut-off date for eligibility for the annual election in November. Post marked Oct 31 or Nov 1.
3. The Treasurer needs a helper on the day of the election due to the activity at the Treasurers table.
4. It was stated that the problem of three votes not being counted on Nov 12 was a problem with the Procedures not the People.
5. The definition of a landowner in good standing is being current on assessments and not in violation of the covenants.
6. Important to save the secret double envelopes that the ballots were mailed in.
7. Several landowners volunteered to work with the board on the election procedures: Jerry L, Linda U, Wendy R, Andrea S, and Claudette D.

Discussion included whether we should change the SG vote by allowing Kathleen R. to cast the 3 votes that were considered as non-eligible at the time the absentee ballots were processed, before her payment was found. Changing the vote would require auditing any other absentee ballots that were not eligible.

An attorney opinion letter was distributed as a handout. It was noted that the date on the letter was Nov 13, but Atty. Alanah Griffith wrote it on Nov 14. It was also noted that the letter stated a landowner was allowed 3 votes of the 5, but the absentee ballot actually allowed 2 votes of the 5.

The letter also stated the Secretary has specific duties and authority "with regards to most of the procedure leading up to and counting the voting...sends notice of meeting...oversees the member list...reviews the vote and determines that the count was correct." (*Emphasis added.*)

Voting results were announced at the close of the Nov 12 annual meeting. Voting results were emailed to the board and email subscribers on Sunday Nov 13 and posted on the website on Monday Nov 14.

Charlene M. considered:

1. the discussion from the meeting
2. the fact that George M had withdrawn as per his email
3. that a recount would not change the outcome
4. the attorney letter regarding state law M.C.A. 35-2-542 (4)

and she stated that the Nov 12 vote would stand.

Meeting adjourned 8:49 p.m.