

Town Clerk and Treasurer Meeting North Central VT

Thursday, January 23, 2020, Hosted by Sarah Merriman at Middlesex Town Office

Theme: Elections

Attendance

Carol Dawes, Barre City; Rosie Laquerre, East Montpelier; Carla Lawrence, Waterbury; Deb Tangway, Coventry; Charlene Walker, Stowe; Lisa Walker, Stowe; Pattie Lewis, Fayston; Ken Scott, Fayston; Bobbi Brimblecombe, Marshfield; Susan Tinker, Johnson; Rosemary Audibert, Johnson; Candy Vear, Eden; Anne Mullings, Johnson; Sara Haskins, Morristown; Elizabeth Chase, Morristown; Maureen Harvey, Duxbury; Sally Reynolds, Cambridge; Dana Warren, Cambridge; Mark Schilling, Cambridge; Heather Jewett, Cambridge; Mitzi Fleming, Morrisville; Kim Moulton, Hyde Park; Sarah Merriman, Middlesex; Judy Robert, Calais

5:46 PM

Carol Dawes welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes, and seconded. Correction of names noted. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbi Brimblecombe announced that there has been no income or expenses. Renewal of membership will be ten dollars. Funds are primarily for food for speakers. She will send update to group.

Election of officers

Carol Dawes stated that the positions of Chair and Secretary were open for election.

Treasurer Bobbi Brimblecombe offered to remain in her position.

Vice Chair and Program Coordinator Sarah Haskins offered to continue.

Carol described the chair position.

Heather Jewett volunteered for chair position.

Rosie Laquerre offered to serve as secretary, with back-up support. Lisa Walker from Stowe volunteered to serve as back up.

Enthusiastic approval of the group.

All were voice-voted to positions as stated.

Round Table discussion on Elections

Topics:

- Discussion of requirement to choose Democratic or Republican ballot for presidential primary. It is in State statute.
- Hanging a sign that quotes statute is helpful to explain rationale for choosing.
- Exit checklist use was discussed.
- Multiple checklists? Different columns on checklist for different ballots is an option.
- Remember to add mark for absentee for school and town.
- Asking people to fill out absentee request forms helps with paper trail.
- Ask voters to return all ballots even if not voting a particular ballot.
- Add note to absentee to return all ballots explaining basic process.
- Same day registration was discussed -- bring 911 map to verify residence.
- Helpful to have VEMS at polling place.

- Consolidated school district voting procedures were discussed.
- Public notices can be in notebooks for warnings, checklists, sample ballots.
- Night of election tally write- ins; then data-enter next day.
- Now 17-year olds can vote in primary if they are going to be 18 by Nov election. But they cannot vote in local elections!
- Difficulty of controlling talkers on BCA.
- There is still time to have LHS create a local ballot for the primary.
- Accessible voting system -- for March, August and Nov. Train BCA.

- Statehouse update from Carol:
 - Fee for recording documents with tax sales – requesting legislature change to \$15 per page to mirror other recording fees.
 - Adding relatives (grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephers) to vital records who have access is being advocated for at Statehouse.
 - Affidavit of Homelessness is an option for ID issues related to vital records.
- Challenges with Dept of Health Vital Records discussed.
- Proposals from VT Tax Department has to do with standardizing tax bills. Carol testified regarding templates individualized to locations. Also issue of standardized tax dates is proposed.

Tax issues discussed, including Taxpayer Advocate at Dept of Taxes.

Other possible programs and locations

Next host: Waterbury, Carla Lawrence

Program suggestions: Glebe lands, vital records.

Carol Dawes was enthusiastically thanked for leadership.

Other business: None

Adjourned 8:04

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Judy Robert