

North Central Clerks/Treasurers Quarterly Meeting June 25, 2020 via Zoom

Carol Dawes (Barre City), Rosie Laquerre (E. Montpelier), Charlene Walker (Stowe), Teresa Hoadley (Stowe), Kim Moulton (Hyde Park), Bobbi Brimblecombe (Marshfield), Cathy Mander-Adams (Belvidere), **Barbara (?)**, Lisa Walker (Stowe), Mark Schilling (Cambridge), Sally Reynolds (Cambridge), Dana Warren (Campbridge), Sara Haskins (Morristown), Elizabeth Chase (Morristown), **David Smith (?)**, Judy Fitch Robert (Calais), Rosemary Audibert (Johnson), Donna Kelty (Barre Town), Sarah Merriman (Middlesex), Carla Lawrence (Waterbury), Mitzi Fleming (Morristown), Kristan (Hyde Park), **802-447-2067 (?)**

Do we have to wait until the first day of posting warning to mail absentee ballots? No. Absentee ballots should be sent out as soon as possible. Carol mentioned that if you haven't received the postage paid envelopes, you can use existing stock and put postage on them.

If a polling place needs to change unexpectedly, do we have to vote on that? You can change your polling place with a vote of the BCA. [N.B. Remember to let the Secretary of State's office know about a check of polling place as soon as possible.]

Does it take a vote of the BCA to do drive through voting? No. The emergency legislation covered it.

Donna Kelty gave an example of her recent drive through election process.

- There is a separate entrance and exit. Lots of signage. Tents were rented for both entrance and exit to protect poll workers.
- Drive in at first tent to get your ballot packet (ballot, pencil and other materials required)
- Pull off area for same day voters
- Drove around to traffic manager who directed to drive-in movie theatre-style parking with numbered posts.
- Cars pulled forward, exited through a different lane, and dropped ballots into locked box.
- Constable was on duty; there was specific campaigning space. There were walkers, runners and motorcyclists that used the hood of a car for a voting area since they didn't have a flat surface to use.
- Tabulator was located offsite, with live stream ballot feeding.
- Due to time of year, dressing in layers, bug spray and sun screen would have been a good idea.

Carol is buying a couple of rolling bins (cutting a hole in the top) to use for voted/unvoted ballots for her drive-through.

Some communities are going to ask that voters leave non-voting family members home instead of bringing them to the polls.

How will we accommodate poll watchers? Carol will send an e-mail to Will Senning.

When will the absentee voter cards from the Secretary of State go out? One will go out in July, with another following before the November General Election.

There was a mention of SoS getting golf pencils for the election. The SoS will reimburse for any additional materials that might be needed. Not sure they are going to provide them for everyone or

Unused Ballots can be discarded the day after the election. **Do the unused ballots need to be covered so that no one can see them?** You need to ensure no one can see that the ballots as they are discarded. Be certain to label containers as Unvoted Ballots, Voted, Ballot box, etc. It needs to be clear that they are not trash cans.

Discussion about hand sanitizer ruining ballots and where the best place is to have sanitizer for voters. The consensus is to have it at the exit if poll workers are wearing gloves.

If people don't want to wear masks, what to do? Have 2 JPs take them outside to vote curbside.
Can curbside voting be done without JPs? Will send an e-mail to Kim Moulton stating that alternative methods need to be created so that citizens can be permitted to vote.

Where will I get Poll Workers? Advertise on Front Porch Forum, recruit teens (aged 16 or up) to assist with poll workers.

When do you need to make a decision finalizing the polling place? Early enough so that it is on the Warning.

Rosie will send pdf of August Election Warning to Sarah so that she can add notification of requirement of masks.

Is anyone changing or reducing polling hours? Donna changed tabulation center hours during her drive through but kept regular polling hours for the drive through itself. Carol noted that fewer poll workers could mean longer wait times.

Green 191 tags are available in your post office. Donna suggested that green tags be used on ALL ballots, even if not bundled. These tags prioritize sorting and delivery.

How are people handling feeding absentee ballots? What about tabulator testing? Sarah Merriman called a BCA meeting for the evening before the election to feed ballots into the tabulator. Barre Town has a committee that is trained to perform tabulator testing. This could be live streamed if they wish to make it public.

Will there be extra time for absentee ballots to be tabulated? No. Results from tabulator are required to be entered into VEMS on election night.

Some discussion relative to election worker food no longer being available. Poll workers have been provided water and/or coffee makers and asked to bring their own food, K-cups, mugs, etc.

How will we handle ballots that arrive with signed certificate envelopes but aren't in the certificate envelope? There is hope that there will be an instructional insert mailed with ballots. You also need to be sure your unvoted ballots are returned. **If unused ballots are not returned, the entire ballot is considered defective. Be sure to have a stapler on hand for defective ballots.**

Any requirement to check signatures? Not in Vermont. It's an issue in other states.

Who can bring absentee ballots back to the polls or clerk's office? Anyone (other than candidates) can deliver absentee ballots to the clerks .

Cathy from Belvidere had a question about how to Notice a special ballot. Interesting discussion regarding warning a non-binding article.

If there is to be voting on local issues during the General Election, the suggestion was made to finalize language early enough to get that vote on the same ballot. [N.B. Secretary of State's office would need the language by August 14th at the latest, and it would be good to let them know in advance that you'll be submitting a local question.]

Discussion regarding how early voting might be happening in different towns. Some are doing appointments for townspeople as well as researchers.

We also talked about how to accommodate researchers and townspeople.

Straw poll of how many towns use entrance AND exit lists, and how to count votes while social distancing.

Meeting ended at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully,

Rosie Laquerre