

Town of Fairfax



BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY-TO DESIGNATE THE STATE PRIMARY POLLING PLACE MEETING MINUTES – July 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Gary Gilbert, Vice Chair, at 3:05 p.m. through Zoom, 12 Buck Hollow Road, Fairfax, VT 05454 with Peggy Gilbert; Sue Mitchell; Randy DeVine; Judy Cleary; Peter Fitzgerald; Sheri Rainville; Deborah Woodward, Town Clerk and Brad Docheff, Town Manager present.

Gary turned the meeting over to Deborah to explain the options for the State Primary polling place. Deb reminded the Board of the earlier email that was sent from the School Board, stating that with the school building being closed until the beginning of the school year that we needed to find a different location for the State Primary and to think ahead of a polling place for the General Election that we could address later. Deb and Brad had discussed earlier that having an alternative polling place off of Town-owned property would introduce an unnecessary liability to the Town, deciding this would not be a good option. The three potential locations owned by the Town consist of the Town Office, the Community Center, and the Town Garage. Deb and Brad talked about a Drive Through Election being safe, quick, efficient, and very successful for Town Clerks that went that route for their Special Elections. The Town Garage looked like the best solution with the size of the location, doing the drive through around the building. The Town owns tarps/tents to use to be able to get out of the bad or hot weather. Workers and voters would be much safer with the COVID 19 issue.

A motion was made by Peter Fitzgerald and seconded by Judy Cleary to have the Town Garage as the State Primary Election as the polling place doing a drive through. The Floor was opened for discussion. Some discussion consisted of saying they thought it would be an excellent and the safest place with the large horseshoe shape. The question was asked if people would be able to walk through to vote, if were not in a vehicle. They would. The Board asked if they could visit the site beforehand. The site can be visited and anyone that would like to come and help set up the day before would be great. Deborah motioned that the State Primary on August 11, 2020 would be a drive through at the Town Garage, 317 Fletcher Road, Fairfax, VT and was passed by all saying I. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Susan Mitchell

Susan Mitchell
Justice of the Peace

Deborah Woodward

Attested on July 8, 2020
Deborah Woodward
Town Clerk/Treasurer