

2019 JUN 26 10:30 AM

Scituate Board of Registrars



**Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2019
Scituate High School Gymnasium**

Present: Board of Registrars, Anne Cuneo, Chairperson; Conley Ford; William Francis and Kathleen Gardner.

In addition, the following were present at the meeting for the purposes of the recount:

Town Counsel: Attorney Cindy Amara

Special Counsel: Richard P. Bowen

Recording Secretary: Lianne Cataldo

Assistant Town Clerk: Heather C. Nugent

Police Department: Brad Stenbeck, Scituate Police Department

Runners: Kevin Butler, Tom Gavin, Tom Edwards

Additional Assistance: Lori West, Hull Town Clerk

Final Tally Clerk: Nancy Holt

Team Precinct 1:

Tally Clerk: Lynne Donnolly

Ballot Reader: Penny Scott Pipes

Team Precinct 2:

Tally Clerk: Susan Frankel

Ballot Reader: Ann White

Team Precinct 3:

Tally Clerk: Kim Magill

Ballot Reader: Cathy Downing

Team Precinct 4:

Tally Clerk: Cathie McGowan

Ballot Reader: Richard Harding

Team Precinct 5:

Tally Clerk: Irene Murray

Ballot Reader: Carolyn Sones

Team Precinct 6:

Tally Clerk: Alison Short

Ballot Reader: Lynda Plowman

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On June 20, 2019 prior to the recount, at 10:30 AM the May 18, 2019 Town Election materials, including all voted and unvoted ballots were removed from the vault in the presence of Special Counsel, Richard Bowen, Registrars Kathleen Gardner, William Francis, Anne Cuneo and Police Officer Brad Stenbeck. These materials were delivered by DPW employees with a police escort to the Scituate High School gym for the recount at 10:45 AM. At 11 AM the voted ballot boxes were opened by precinct, one precinct at a time and the ballots were separated into piles of 10 and then blocks of 50 and placed in envelopes labeled by precinct and block #s. A tally sheet for each was attached. At 11:48 AM all precinct block ballots were counted into blocks and returned to their boxes to await the recount.

The meeting of the Scituate Board of Registrars was called to order at 12:01 by Anne Cuneo, Chair, on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at Scituate High School, 606 Chief Justice Cushing Way, Massachusetts for a recount of the Question 1-Debt Exclusion of the Annual Town Election held on May 18, 2019.

Ann Cuneo moved to call the meeting to order at 12:01 PM, motion seconded by William Francis; Unanimous vote (4-0)

At 12:02 PM, the ballot readers, tally clerks, agents and observers took their positions for the recount.

At 12:03 PM, Kathy Gardner took a roll call of supporters and petitioners.

Proceedings:

Mr. Bowen reviewed the recount procedures in detail. He gave instructions to the petitioners and supporters as to how the meeting would proceed. He asked for silence, no beverages and no markers or pens (writing instruments). He stated how important the process, was as well as their responsibilities. He also explained that all questions would go to him.

[“Election Recounts” can be found online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elerct/rctidx.htm>]

Conley Ford moved to accept the recount procedures, process and trained poll workers who will record and tally the results of the June 20th recount assigned by the Town Clerk per MGL c54 s135. Motion seconded by William Francis; Unanimous Vote (4-0)

At 12:08 PM, the Recount Process Began. Blocks of ballots were delivered one envelope at a time for tallying

At 12:40 PM, Jennifer Kuhn, stated that she felt that the Town should have a back-up tally clerk because Nancy Holt is a Town employee.

Rejected Ballots

At 12:41 PM, The board voted to accept the Town Clerk's decision on the absentee ballots that had been rejected. The names of the voters were withheld.

19 absentee ballots were never returned to the Town Clerk's office; 3 rejected as returned late and 6 spoiled ballots.

Precinct 1: 4 absentee ballots not returned and 1 rejected as returned late and 1 spoiled ballot.

Precinct 2: 4 absentee ballots not returned and 1 spoiled ballot.

Precinct 3: 4 absentee ballots not returned and 1 spoiled ballot.

Precinct 4: 6 absentee ballots not returned and 1 rejected as returned late.

Precinct 6: 1 absentee ballot not returned and 1 rejected as returned late and 3 spoiled.

William Francis moved that the Town Clerk Office's decision on rejected absentee ballots be accepted, motion seconded by Conley Ford; Unanimous vote (4-0)

At 1:04 PM in the Precinct 2 area (Susan Frankel, Tally Clerk and Ann White, Ballot Reader) an extra pen was observed on the floor by agents, no protest was made. Richard Bowen was called over and all agents agreed that the pen had been left on the floor and had not been used.

At 1:33 PM, Kathy thanked everyone for coming and she dismissed the "talliers" and the runners. The observers stayed.

At 1:45 PM, the official tally was presented to the board and was read aloud by Anne Cuneo, Chair.

Official Results by precinct:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blank</u>	<u>Total</u>
Precinct 1:	329	327	29	685
Precinct 2:	316	289	35	640
Precinct 3:	289	260	36	585
Precinct 4:	319	274	43	636

Precinct 5:	311	284	29	624
Precinct 6:	332	292	60	684

Total Official Results:

Question 1: Debt Exclusion	Official tally
YES	1896
NO	1726
BLANKS	232
TOTAL	3854

The board reviewed the official tally and voted to accept it

**Ann Cuneo moved to certify the official tally, motion seconded by Kathleen Gardner;
Unanimous Vote (4-0)**

The Ballot Boxes were locked with zip ties:

Precinct 1: 001142055
Precinct 2: 001142052
Precinct 3: 001142057
Precinct 4: 001142060
Precinct 5: 001142058
Precinct 6: 001142059

**At 2:04 PM, Ann Cuneo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Conley Ford
Unanimous Vote (4-0)**

Respectfully submitted by,

Lianne Cataldo
Recording Secretary

Kathleen A. Gardner
Board of Registrars, Clerk

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