

Minutes of the Worcester, Massachusetts Board of Election Commissioners

July 25, 2011

Call to Order by Chair Dube at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Mary Anne Dube
Commissioner Ana Rodriguez
Commissioner Robert Winant

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner John Goggins
Commissioner Joseph McGowan

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New business:

The first order of new business was the final report on the 2011 street listing presented by Joshua Meduna. 45% of those on the current voter list were placed on inactive status because they did not respond to the census. The reason for this could be that many may have moved from their listed address or may have passed away. Some of those who have moved may be reactivated as they may have submitted a change of address through the Registry and submitted their voter registration at that time.

With the municipal elections coming up, there may be some confusion for voters who have been moved to the inactive list. Poll workers will receive additional training on how to deal with the potential issues. Two training sessions are currently scheduled for August 31 and September 1, 2011. In addition, online training will be available

Bonnie Johnson of Boylston asked for clarification of the ID requirement for inactive voters. Mr. Meduna responded that those who did not have ID verifying their current address would receive a provisional ballot. If they have an ID for a previous address, they should be directed to vote at their previous polling location.

Ms. Johnson also inquired if it was possible to have non-poll workers attend the training. Mr. Rushford responded that a ruling from City Solicitor Moore would be needed to determine the feasibility and that such a ruling will be requested. Chair Dube also noted that limited space could prevent those who are not poll workers from attending.

The second item of new business concerned the closing of the Big Y on Southwest Cutoff. This has been the polling location for Ward 5 Precinct 3 and the closing necessitates a new location be made available for the 2011 election cycle. The previous location was the Lake House on Lake Avenue and Mr. Rushford recommended this location be used for the current calendar year. Chair Dube queried if the location was handicap accessible and Mr. Rushford confirmed it is. A motion was made by Commissioner Winant to accept this location, Commissioner Rodriguez seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Potential locations for the polling place for 2012 will be studied and determined at a later time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug 15 at 5:30 p.m. The drawing of lots for the September 20th Primary will be conducted at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.