

Special Committee on Voter Confidence Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: May 2, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

Location: State Archives Research Room,
9 Ratification Way
Concord, NH 03301

In Attendance:

Committee: Richard Swett (Co-chair), Bradford E. Cook (Co-chair), Ken Eyring, Andrew Georgevits, Amanda Merrill, Jim Splaine, Douglass Teschner, and Olivia Zink

Secretary of State Staff: Anna Fay, Orville “Bud” Fitch, David Lang, Patricia Piecuch, Jennie Taggart

Committee Co-chair Bradford Cook opened the meeting at 1:00 P.M. He announced that Secretary of State David Scanlan would not be in attendance as he tested positive for COVID.

The members of the Committee introduced themselves by stating their names and town/city of residence. Secretary of State (SOS) staff in attendance also identified themselves.

Orville “Bud” Fitch, staff attorney for the Secretary of State’s Office, briefed the Committee members on their Right-to-Know law obligations as an advisory committee.

Committee members gave more detailed introductions about their professional backgrounds and political experience, as well as a fun fact about themselves.

Committee members discussed the objectives of the Committee, the process to be used by the Committee, future meeting schedules, advance posting of agendas, meeting procedures, locations, minimum attendance necessary to hold scheduled meetings, opportunities for public input, and the public posting of video recordings of meetings. Committee members expressed interest in receiving information on election laws, the Election Procedure Manual, a demonstration of the ballot counting device used in New Hampshire, and data sources for reports on voter confidence.

The Committee decided by consensus to meet at 1pm on May 13th in the State Archives Research Room. Meetings will go until they are done, no predetermined ending time will be set. The Committee requested that an e-mail address be set up for use by the public to communicate with the Committee. The Secretary of State’s staff agreed to set up that e-mail address.

Co-chair Cook asked the public in attendance if they had any comments.

Louise Spencer of Concord asked if all the right people are sitting at the table. She suggested adding additional members that represent people of color, people with disabilities, and people with different socioeconomic statuses. This issue was discussed by the Committee.

Janet Ward of Contoocook thanked the Committee in advance for its work.

Mr. Cook reminded Committee members to fill out and return the required RSA 15-A forms handed out by SOS staff.

The following items were handed out by SOS staff to Committee members upon request: Election Procedure Manual, Political Calendar, Election Law Manual, and the NH Constitution.

Andrew Georgevits made a motion to adjourn. Ken Eyring seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.