

HMC Bylaw Committee Notes

December 8, 2020

Video Conference

Carl, Scott, Sue, Stephanie, Jed, Steven, Kari (notes), Billy Donovan

Carl summarized the current situation and the Committee members shared their perspectives:

- Last summer the Council authorized the Committee to move forward with a member voting process in early 2021.
- There are six items being recommended for member consideration, three of which are anticipated to be controversial.
- The Co-op's all-online annual meeting went well but it did not feature much dialog and debate.
- Carl participated in a larger remote meeting with deliberation and voting that was successful. A credentials committee was responsible for verifying voter eligibility.
- Jed has participated in larger remote meetings that were successful with a high level of curation. The votes have largely not been controversial. Mixed media (phone and computer) added complexity. Preregistration helped with voting credentials.
- Steven shared his experience with a large remote training.
- Carl reported on 2021 town meeting plans. Towns may opt to vote on all items by Australian ballot, and a proposal expected to pass the legislature in January would give towns the option of postponing their town meetings until warmer weather.
- People are generally more comfortable with remote technology these days.
- Vaccination could make a possible for a 2021 in-person meeting. Outdoors is another possibility.
- It may be a challenge to gather 100 members to a remote meeting (without food as an incentive).
- We could consider putting non-controversial items to vote and set up the other issues for the future. However, the committee would be useful in explaining the more controversial items.
- The Co-op will need to consider how to hold hybrid meetings in the future where members will be able to participate in person or remotely.
- We could let meeting attendees decide whether the items have been discussed sufficiently before putting to vote.
- Billy articulated his concerns regarding State statutes, articles, bylaws and Robert's Rules.
- Kari recommended that pre-meetings be part of the member engagement process in lead up to the voting meeting.

- We could use recorded presentations as one of our communication channels.
- If go with outdoors meeting, a tent could be used creatively for other purposes or shared with other entities to reduce costs.
- The Committee members expressed their preference for a live, non-remote member meeting, but also believe it's important to have the member meeting and vote on the proposed bylaws before too much more time elapses.

The Committee decided to pursue an outdoor meeting in May, if allowed. Kari will research tent options and other logistics (venue, chairs, tables, sound system) along with updating the engagement process timeline. He will report back in January. Kari will make a task list and ask for help from committee members. Carl will write a memo for council and attend the January 4 Council meeting. Carl will send out a scheduling poll for next meeting for mid-January.

