

TOWN OF CASTLETON  
MEETING OF BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY  
October 27, 2020 5:30PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Lobdell, Chair, Nedra Boutwell, Clerk, Gerard Ashton, Robert Grace, Bobbie Hanley, Joe Mark, Debbie Rosmus, Lilian Sheren.

The meeting was called to order at 5:39pm by Chair Scott Lobdell.

The minutes of the August 6, 2020 BCA meeting were reviewed. Joe M. made a motion to approve the minutes of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Debbie R seconded. Discussion followed, Bob G made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 6, 2020 BCA meeting as read, Debbie R seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion followed regarding the upcoming election. The schedule of workers was discussed, there is a need for extra workers for cleaning and affidavits being signed. If a voter doesn't bring the ballot that was mailed to them to the polls they will need to sign an affidavit stating that they have not returned their ballot or voted in the election, then we can give them a ballot. I plan to have someone meeting people at the door to get these signed before they get to the check in desk. The highway department is building a temporary wall to go in the bay door to help keep out the weather. We will set up some voting booths in the bay for voters who enter without masks, we can not turn anyone away for not wearing a mask. Masks and sanitizer will be available for anyone, and we will be cleaning and social distancing through out the day. I have also purchased sneeze guards for the tables.

We discussed poll watchers, campaigning, and protesters. Our policy of politicking, campaigning and signs at the polling place needs to be updated, the Castleton Fire Station is not mentioned. After discussion it was decided the area designated for campaigning shall be on the grass on each side of the driveway north of the sidewalk to the Police Station. Chief Mantello has agreed to set up the area with tape and signage and police it if necessary. Some wording was changed to make it easier to understand and a map was added to show the designated area. Everyone agreed with the changes. (A copy of the policy is attached)

Friday October 30 at 9:00am was set as the next time to run absentee ballots through the tabulator.

Bob G made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bonnie H seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully submitted:

Nedra Boutwell, Clerk

Approved:

Date:

## TOWN OF CASTLETON

### Policy on Politicking, Campaigning, and Signs At the Polling Place

Vermont law prohibits politicking within the building containing the local polling place 17 VSA 2508

- Voters must remove campaign buttons, hats, and other paraphernalia before entering the polling place. If a person is wearing a campaign shirt, their coat should be kept on.
- All conversations about candidates or issues should be kept outside of the polling place.
- Individual voters may bring in brochures and written campaign materials for their own use, but these may not be shared, shown to others, or left in the voting booth or the polling place.
- Exit polling is considered politicking and must remain outside of the polling area.

Vermont law permits the Presiding Officer to designate an area outside of the polling place where candidates, supporters, and pollsters can stand, offer information, conduct polls, and / or hold signs. The designated area at the Castleton Fire Station shall be on the grass on each side of the driveway north of the sidewalk to the Police Station, leaving easy, clear access for all voters to enter and exit the parking lot and building unimpeded and not be visible from inside the polling place. Candidates and those representing them may not stand in, place signs near, or in any way block the clear pathway to and from the Fire Stations entrance.

- The voter's progress into and out of the polling place may not be blocked in any way.
- Candidates and political workers may not block access or harass voters who are walking to or from their vehicle in the designated parking area. The drop-off location needed for handicap or special needs voters must not be blocked.
- Candidates and political workers may not park in the designated voter parking area. (Poll workers and others must park in the Town Office parking lot)

#### Signs / Posters / Other Campaign Materials

- Candidates and Campaigners may hold signs on the grass north of the sidewalk to the Police Station.
- Signs must be handheld or free standing. Signs may NOT be affixed in any way to the buildings or any other property.
- Candidates and campaigns shall not leave **unattended** signs anywhere except in the grass alongside the driveway at the northern entrance. Signs shall not block the sidewalk, impede safe passage from the parking lot to the polling place or be visible from inside the Polling Place.
- Signs must be promptly removed, by their owner, at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave the premises or be removed by a law enforcement officer.

10/27/2020

## Google Maps Castleton Police Department



Map data ©2020, Map data ©2020 20 ft



## Castleton Police Department

3.0 ★ ★ ★ (2)

Police department



Directions



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273 VT-30, Castleton, VT 05735



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