

**Harwich Voter Information Committee Agenda
2 pm, Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Channel 18 Studio, Harwich Community Center
100 Oak Street, Harwich MA 02645**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- III. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Reorganize committee
 - 2. Introduction: Joy Jordan, newly appointed member
 - 3. Approve minutes: 4/28/2021 and 6/23/2021
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. *Know Your Town – Committee Chairs, Dept Heads - status*
 - 2. *Candidates' Forum – September 2, 2021 – finalize plans*
 - 3. *Candidate invitation package*
- V. OTHER**
- VI. ADJOURN**

Christina Joyce, Chair

**Posted: Town Clerk
Date:**

Per the Attorney General's Office: The committee may hold an open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting following "New Business." If you are deaf or hard of hearing or a person with a disability who requires an accommodation, contact the Selectmen's Office at 508-430-7513.

Harwich Voter Information Committee
Wednesday, April 28, 2:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES
Held remotely

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Joyce called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm with a roll call. Pam Groswald- present, Emily Milan- present, Chris Joyce- present. The Chair noted the absence of former member Peggy Rose who passed away suddenly

- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Approve March 31, 2021 minutes**

Ms. Groswald made a motion to approve the March minutes. Ms. Milan seconded and a roll call vote was taken. Ms. Groswald- yes, Ms. Milan- yes, Ms. Joyce- yes.

 2. **Publicity for VIC programs**

Recent VIC programs have been posted on the VIC webpage and have been marketed on social media, the library newsletter, and through emails to various lists and groups. Ms. Milan will make slides for Channel 18. Ms. Groswald will write a press release for the Cape Cod Chronicle column.

- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. **Know Your Town update** Ms. Milan reported that the podcasts continue to gain listeners but did not have precise statistics.
 2. **Review Status – Spring Programs**
 - a. **Financial State – 4/8** The Chair praised Ms. Groswald for her excellent work on the Financial State of Harwich program.
 - b. **Warrant Review – 4/20** Committee members applauded the Chair for her work on the Warrant Review. The Chair indicated that further press is needed to promote the Spring programs.
 - c. **Candidates Forum – 5/11** The Chair expressed disappointment in the response from this year's candidates. She noted that very few candidates have committed to participating in the 5 minute interviews indication that they are running unopposed and do not find it necessary. Ms. Groswald noted that even running unopposed there is still a need to introduce yourself to voters. The Chair also indicated a mixed response

from the candidates in opposed races (Board of Selectmen and Water/Wastewater) In terms of the Board of Selectmen race, initial response from candidates was positive but the League of Women Voters representative has not yet received a confirmation from Gallante. In the Water/Wastewater race, neither candidate responded to any communication from the Chair. The Chair asked for guidance on any additional measure that might be taken Ms. Milan suggested a final phone call to candidates to attempt to secure a confirmation of participation. Otherwise the Forum may need to be cancelled due to lack of participation.

- V. **OTHER** – Ms. Groswald indicated that the town will have to host a special election to fill the Board of Selectmen seat which is open after the recent passing of Stephen Ford.
- VI. **ADJOURN** There being no further business, Ms. Groswal made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Milan seconded. The Chair took a roll call vote. Ms. Milan - yes, Ms. Groswald- yes, Ms. Joyce- yes. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.
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**Harwich Voter Information Committee
Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 2pm**

**DRAFT MINUTES
Held remotely**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Joyce called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm with a roll call. Pam Groswald- present, Emily Milan- present, Chris Joyce- present. The Chair noted that a quorum was present.

- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Chair noted the presence of a member of the public who was introduced as Joy Jordan. Ms. Jordan indicated that she has submitted her paperwork to join the Voter Information Committee and is awaiting the next round of committee interviews.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Approve April 28, 2021 minutes-** This vote was postponed until the next meeting.
 2. **Possible Fall Programs – Local Election, Selectman vacancy, committee recruiting, etc.** The chair indicated that there is currently only one candidate for the special town election scheduled for September 21, 2021. It was suggested that the Chair attempt to reserve a space for a possible Fall Candidates Forum should the race be contested.

- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. **Know Your Town** – Ms. Milan expressed interest in resuming the Know Your Town podcast this fall with a series on local boards and committees. This could be used as an opportunity to recruit new members for existing vacancies on boards and committees. It was suggested that recording begin after the local election in September.
 2. **Review Spring Programs.**
 - Financial State – 4/8** The committee members agreed that Ms. Groswald’s Financial State was well received.
 - Warrant Review – 4/20** The committee members noted that Ms. Joyce overcame unusual circumstances, mainly the inability to invite all article sponsors due to Covid restrictions.
 - Candidates Forum – 5/11** Each committee member expressed concern and disappointment in the lack of participation from candidates this year.

V. **OTHER** Ms. Groswald suggested that the committee create an invitation that could be distributed to all candidates along with election paperwork. This invitation could explain the purpose and intent of the Voter Information Committee and how we can assist candidates through interviews, forums, etc. Ms. Groswald will begin drafting the invitation. Ms. Milan asked about the status of in person meetings and the Chair indicated that the next committee meeting will likely be in person. Some discussion of the schedule and location ensued.

VI. **ADJOURN** There being no further business, Ms. Groswald made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Milan seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:35,

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Milan
Clerk
