

**Board of Registrars**

Lucia Foley  
April Bellafiore  
Karl Grochowalski  
Sarah B. Gmeiner, Town Clerk

**Board of Registrars Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: **Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 3:15pm**  
Town Clerk's Office, M11, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, MA 01075  
Present: Lucia Foley, Sarah Gmeiner, April Bellafiore, Karl Grochowalski

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion made by April and seconded by Sarah to approve meeting minutes for March 16, 2023 was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**Town Election updates:

An election night schedule and task list will be forwarded to members in advance of the election.

The advanced removal process for Town Election early vote ballots returned as of April 5, 2023 started this morning with Precincts A, C, and D. Processing will continue tomorrow with Precincts B and E. The ballots that have come in are checked in, removed from envelopes, and processed through the machines, then ballots and envelopes are labeled and placed in locked storage. This process helps to provide faster results on election night. Ballots sent by mail or placed in the Town Hall drop box after advance removal must be received by 8pm on election day.

The return rate to date for this year's early vote-by-mail ballots is about 35%, and the approximately 1000 ballots returned to date exceeds the total number of people who voted in last year's election. The increase in local election participation does come with a cost, of approximately \$4,700 for the ballot mailing, much of which is postage.

A vote-by-mail application form was included in the Town's annual local census mailing, reaching every household with no additional cost for postage. The budget line item was adequate for all costs.

As a small number of mail-in votes were not signed, future voter information efforts will address this.

Sarah is exploring options to include some information on the Town website about the elections conducted by the two Fire/Water Districts as a public service to South Hadley voters.

**New Business**

Possibilities for a 2024 'I Voted' sticker contest for local students will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Summer 2023 date TBD