



OCEAN PINES, MARYLAND

## Elections Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2023

Blue Room, Administration Bldg.

**Call to Order:** 2:13 pm

**Verification of Quorum:** Attended by Committee Members George Alston, Nanci Osborne (minutes taker), Steve Ransdell, Tom Schwartz, and Chairman Tom Piatti. Also in attendance were OPA BOD Liaison Rick Farr, Secretary Stuart Lakernick and Media Specialist Josh Davis. (Cindy Hoffman and Joe Reynolds observed).

**Approval of past minutes:** Tom Schwartz motioned to approve the minutes of our March 10, 2023, meeting, which was seconded by George Alston and unanimously approved.

**Public Comments:** No comments.

**BOD Liaison Remarks:** VP Rick Farr thanked the Committee for all their work in the past several months while acknowledging the Committee's professionalism under some adversity and time lines. He appreciated the Committee answering all the Board questions and he's looking forward to a great and hopefully flawless election season.

### **Chairperson Remarks:**

This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on YouTube.

- Election Trust, our election contractor in Washington State, will mail about 7,800 ballots via the US Postal Service to eligible Owners of Record the week of July 11. Ballots must be received by Election Trust by Tuesday, August 8, 2023.
- Ballots must be placed in the OP Police Station drop box by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, for a final overnight express mail to Election Trust by 5 p.m..
- Phone monitoring assignments for the 2023 election weeks beginning 7/16 - Nanci, 7/23 – Tom Schwartz, 7/30 - Steve, and 8/6 - George.
- Future Election Dates: Eligibility to vote 7-6-23. Ballot deadline: 8-8-23. Ballot count 8-10-23. Annual meeting 8-12-23.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- We discussed the Candidate Forum to be held in the Golf Clubhouse at 6 PM on Wednesday, Jun 21. This forum will be taped and available for replay soon after the forum has finished. Questions for the candidates can be sent to [elections@oceanpines.org](mailto:elections@oceanpines.org) and, if time, those members in attendance can ask their own questions. Candidates will not all be answering the same questions.
- There are approximately 8,500 Owners of Record; historically around 700 are found ineligible to vote. Note: 1 ballot per lot owned. A 10am, June 9, 2023, meeting date was set for the discussion of Election Trust instructions, inserts, spreadsheets and point of contact for Eligible and In-Eligible voter lists.
- It is very important that owners update their information for notification purposes (especially OPA's accessibility to any new email accounts, i.e., switching from Mediacom to Xfinity means loss of Mediacom email address). An account can easily be opened and updated on the OPA website by using your Membership number listed on your card/assessment invoice.
- Ballot envelopes will be scanned daily by Election Trust and the EC will provide the EC a weekly report listing those who have voted, but not how they voted.
- Candidates will answer the following three questions in 200 words or less (per question). The answers, plus the candidate bio and photo, will be published in the OPA Summer Report and released to local media:
  1. What do you think are the most significant issues facing the Association in the next 2 or 3 years and what solutions would you offer?
  2. Outsourcing of our three Food and Beverage operations has been successful. Do you see other areas in which outsourcing might be appropriate?
  3. Boards must make difficult decisions. How will you address differences of opinions between Board members?

Discussion of any questions or concerns: None

**Adjournment:** At 3:41 pm. Moved by George, seconded by Steve. Next meeting scheduled for June 9, 2023, at 10 am.