

Purpose:

The purpose of this hearing is to receive verbal and written submissions regarding the Draft amended Alternative Voting Bylaw

Background:

On January 10, 2023, staff provided council with a report on the 2022 Special Election, that report included a recommendation that by the time of the next municipal election, consideration be given to an alternative to the practice of making physical polling stations available for two Advance Polling days. Staff recommended making a polling station available at Town Hall for the full 9 days of the advance polling period. This polling station would be available for citizens to vote during regular Town Hall business hours, with assistance from office staff where necessary.

The Town's Returning Officer for the 2022 Special Election also pointed out confusion between the Nova Scotia Municipal Election Act (MEA) and the Town of Mahone Bay Alternative Voting Bylaw. The MEA states that the first Advance Polling Day is 9 days preceding Ordinary Polling Day and the Alternative Voting Bylaw states that the first Advance Polling Day is 14 days preceding Ordinary Polling Day.

After receiving the January 10, 2023 staff report, council passed the following motion:

THAT Council direct staff to review the Town of Mahone Bay Alternative Voting Bylaw and provide Council with any suggested amendments to ensure clarity following the second election ducted using Alternative Voting Methods.

Other housekeeping amendments were made during review of the Bylaw.

At the May 9th regular council meeting, council provided first reading of the draft amended Alternative Voting Bylaw.

Notification:

Public Hearing:

Progress Bulletin May 31st and June 2nd.
Town website, Town Facebook page,

Submissions Received:
No comments were received prior to the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Redden
Town Clerk

