

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Short--and to the point: Democracy

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Conversation: Short--and to the point: Democracy

host_name

A shout out to democracy came today in little Deer Park, and for the 40 or so assembled in the Barn at 4pm, there was a something for everyone. Suspense, attorneys, arcane legal arguments, parents with children, pacing with aggravation, video cameras (two) grinding away—even a reporter from a major newspaper capturing it all on a cell phone.

In a nutshell, there will be two candidates for each of three trustee seats and one Presidential chair.

So here's what happened, and not necessarily in this order (but we will have a DVD ready in a few days)

- President Gifford recused himself from the Election hearing the objections to Trustees petitions. Attorney Ellen Raymond argued persuasively that the interests of fairness and legal precedent required Scott to step away, given that the objections to be heard against Koutsis, Michael and Beattie (running for trustee "with" Gifford, but not a formal slate) were identical to the argument in an objection against Scott himself, and therefore his speaking to the objection would naturally taint the votes of Village Clerk Meyle and Trustee Kizior, when they came to hear the objection against Scott. (We think we got that more or less correct.)
- Scott having stepped down, a quorum was nevertheless present in Meyle and Kizior.
- Mary Lahr, having filed against Koutsis, Michael and Beattie (twice) withdrew her objections; that withdrawal was accepted by the board
- At some point the village's attorney explained that today's proceedings were only preliminary and substantive arguments would not be heard. However, given the wording of the open meeting announcement, the proceedings proceeded.
- Thomas Griffin, who objected to the other trustee candidates—Sands, Olson and Lahr—made his arguments, but was rebuffed for several technicalities. No, candidates did NOT need to file in both Lake and Cook Counties when it came to their Statements of Economic Interests. Finally, after much confusing conversation, it was decided that you and we—the voters—could figure out that when we signed a petition that clearly statement so-and-so was running for Trustee, then a failing of the single-sheet

Statement of Candidacy that missed a detail or two was not a fatal failing.

- At the hearing on the objections to the Presidential candidates, Mr. Griffin withdrew his final objection, as it was the same as the previous three, and Mrs. Lahr withdrew hers against Scott.

And so, ladies and gentleman, in a blow for democracy, you will not only have a choice for all four seats in the upcoming election in Deer Park....

The onus is now on us, and you, and you, and you—on all of us—to education ourselves about the ISSUES, and to choose wisely for the future of Deer Park.

Having this formality behind us, we can plan for debates, coffees, knocking on doors, neighbors speaking to neighbors and, come April, forming a consensus.

Well done, all! And remember, together, we are stronger.

Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
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