

APPROVED MINUTES
Wilton Democratic Town Committee
Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Present: Sharon Grace, Deborah McFadden, Richard Creeth, Charlie Lewis, Lois Alcosser, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, Alice Ayers, Troy Ellen Dixon, David Borglum, Toni Lee, Ernie Ricco, Ted Hofstatter, Hallie Wofsy, Jon Tan

Guests: Jeff Yates (Wilton Bulletin), Barbara Massy Bear

Absent Excused: Margaret DeRose, John Gardiner

Wilton DTC Chairperson Grace calls the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Guest Speaker: Richard Ziegler, Emergency Response Volunteers

Wilton is looking for volunteers for the Emergency Response Teams. Sign-up forms are on the town website. Classes will be held in March. Volunteers are asked to complete 20 hours of total training time.

Richard Ziegler can be contacted at (203) 761 1386 or (914) 285 7311 (daytime tel) for questions.

Approval of the Minutes:

The November 6, 2004 minutes are approved unanimously. The December minutes will be distributed at the next DTC meeting for approval, together with the January minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Wilton DTC's current account balance is \$2,638.
2. Our fund balance is healthy, following our January fundraiser. Some purchased drinks from the fundraiser will be returned, which will increase our balance.
3. There are no outstanding bills. The next payable will be the May insurance bill.
4. The DTC can still fund the next fund-raiser with existing funds.
5. The Treasurer will look into obtaining a not-for-profit Tax ID number.

Nomination to the DTC:

Barbara Massy Bear was nominated and unanimously approved to be the newest member of the Wilton DTC.

Barbara Massy Bear 83 Indian Hill Road
Tel: (203) 762 2489
Email: bembear@optonline.net

Chairman's Announcements:

1. The Jefferson Jackson Bailey (JJB) Dinner is slated for Monday, April 18 at 6pm. Venue is the Acqua Turf Restaurant in Southington, CT. The guest is Senator John Edwards (D-NC)

former Vice Presidential candidate. Donation expected is \$175 for dinner (or \$500 for dinner and private audience with Sen. John Edwards).

The Westport DTC Chair, Martha Aasen is putting together tables. Please let Sharon Grace know if anyone wants to go.

The DTC unanimously approves the expenditure of \$175 to be thrown into the pot for the purchase of 1 JJB Dinner ticket or toward the purchase of more than 1 JJB Dinner ticket for those that require help.

In the past, the DTC purchased a ticket for the Chairperson, Sharon Grace. Sharon pre-empts any motion by declining.

Please let Sharon Grace know if anyone requests contribution(s) toward the JJB Dinner ticket.

2. The new Chair of the Democratic State Committee is Nancy DiNardo. Nancy used to be the DTC Chair of Trumbull. She was the former Treasurer of the Democratic State Committee.

Nancy will excel in her new position because of her organization background. She has historically, not gotten deeply involved in issues or their resolution.

Please call or write Nancy DiNardo if you have recommendations on the CT vote for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) vote coming up on Feb 12, 2005.

3. DTC Tsunami Relief Contribution

The DTC unanimously approves to give \$100 to a charity deemed appropriate for tsunami relief (e.g. Doctors without Borders), with a stipulation that the contribution should go for overseas tsunami relief.

Committee Reports:

1. Platform Committee

Ernie Ricco, Chair of the Platform Committee, calls for opinions from all on the platform, especially opinions from elected and appointed officials and Town Commission members.

If there are thoughts on the platform, please make them heard at the next public hearing on March 22, 2005 at Comstock, Room 21 A&B at 7:30pm. You can also email Ernie at riccoent@aol.com.

The January 25, 2005 public hearing produced good discussions around the platform. 12 people were present and we appreciate all the thoughts put forward.

- The first draft platform will be presented between April and May to the Wilton DTC
- Ratification will occur in June
- The Platform will be finalized in time for the July Caucus

2. Nominating Committee

There is still no Nominating Chair. If anyone is interested, please let Sharon Grace know. The Chair must have been a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Ted Hofstatter nomination to the Water Pollution Control Authority is held because the Board of Selectmen did not meet.

The Bob Cohen nomination for Water Commission is likewise held. This was a position Fred Herot held for many years. The Republicans have put forth its nominee for this traditional Democratic seat. Paul Hannah remarked that the Democrats will have a tough time putting forward a nominee. However, as of Jan 6, the nomination for Bob Cohen was already submitted. Although not a rule that a Democrat take this seat, this tradition has been followed for many years.

The DTC stance has always been to consider each nominee on his merits. If the Republicans have a nominee for the Water Commission, may the best person win. The DTC merely asks for a fair selection process.

The Board of Selectmen will meet on Monday, Feb 7. They will not vote without having interviewed candidates.

3. By-Laws Committee

Charlie Lewis, Chair of the By-Laws Committee, presented the draft of the By-Laws and presented this at the December 14, 2004 Wilton DTC meeting. The draft was completed by Charlie Lewis, Ernie Ricco and Kathee Rabernak. The DTC appreciates Troy Ellen Dixon's very detailed comments to the draft.

There was an in-depth discussion of the draft By-Laws:

Section 2.2.1.2

Date descriptions and stipulations cannot be changed, as these are statutory requirements. Language will remain status quo but explanatory notes in parentheses will be included

Section 2.4 Size of DTC

There was a discussion on increasing the size of the DTC in order to represent the increase in registered Democratic voters. Historically, the DTC has represented 1% of the registered Democratic voters. There has been a roughly 10% increase from 2,200 registered Democratic voters to approximately 2,500. The DTC will be not less than 22 members, nor more than 1% of registered Democratic voters.

Please send all ideas on language to Charlie Lewis, Chair of the By-Laws Committee.

Section 2.6.3.3 Tie Votes

A tie vote is deemed a defeat but can be brought up again at a subsequent meeting, based on Roberts Rules.

Section 2.8 Archivist

'At all times' (shall the DTC have an Archivist) will be deleted.

Historically, the Archivist's role has been split among the DTC Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Web Mistress.

Section 4.2.5.4.1 Nominating Committee

The DTC approved, via a vote, that:

- The Nominating Committee will be composed of 15 members
- Not more than 5-7 shall be members of the DTC, in order to preserve the independence of the Nominating Committee.

Alice Ayers and Richard Creeth voted no. Troy Ellen Dixon abstained. Everyone else present voted yes.

Alice Ayers reinforced that the Nominating Committee is a prestigious committee and that its non-DTC members provides a broader community reach.

There was a discussion to include non-Democratic affiliated members to the Nominating Committee. This was opposed, as the Nominating Committee cannot, by definition, be unaffiliated.

The DTC thanks the efforts of the By-Laws Committee, especially the efforts of Charlie Lewis and Ernie Ricco. If the By-Laws are ready, there will be a vote in March. If not, there will be a vote in April, at the latest.

4. Campaign Committee

There is no report from the Campaign Committee. There is no date for the public release on information on the Democratic First Selectman candidate.

5. Membership Committee

There is no report from the Membership Committee.

Troy Ellen Dixon proposed that we approach those that have recently turned 18, via a Letter to the Editor.

6. Finance Committee

Fred Herot officially resigned as Finance Chair. The DTC thanks Fred for his devotion and unselfish years put into the efforts of the Finance Committee.

It was agreed by a vote, that the Finance Committee will go ahead with the April 9 Breakfast Fundraiser and will spend not more than \$1,000 now. There will be a full cost estimate and another vote in April.

The April 9, 2005 Breakfast Fundraiser will be a Panel Discussion. Sharon Grace has put in calls to prospective Panel members including Richard Blumenthal, Diane Farrell and Jim Maloney. The venues under consideration are The Grange, Trakside and Webco.

The DTC called for event volunteers. Deb McFadden and Fred Herot graciously volunteered.

Old Business:

Valentine's for Volunteers Wrap-up

Our Valentine's for Volunteers event on Jan 30, 2005 was a huge success. We had 50 attendees (250 were invited and 70 responded that they would attend).

The DTC thanks Barbara Massy Bear for pulling this all together; more so, for the gratis rendering of service.

Please send ideas, comments and suggestions to Barbara Massy Bear (email: mbevents@optonline.net).

Guest Speaker: Richard Creeth, Selectman, on Social Security: What is Fact and What is Fiction

Social Security is insurance for old age and must be protected. There is an urgency today because the ratio of working people to retirees has steadily declined.

There is currently an exaggerated crisis representation in the demise of Social Security, as Social Security will not become bankrupt by 2042. By 2042, it will merely not have enough to pay for 100% of promised benefits.

It is important to note that a mere 15% payroll tax increase (from the current 12% to 14%) will fix Social Security for the next 75 years. This is not to say that anybody supports a tax increase. It merely suggests that there is low-hanging fruit that must be explored as remedies—as opposed to the Republican suggestion of gutting Social Security.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.