

Wilton Democratic Town Committee
Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Unapproved minutes

Attendance: Sharon Grace, Deborah McFadden, Hallie Wofsy, Scott Kimmich, Ted Hoffstatter, Ernie Loser, Charlie Lewis, Fred Herot, Lois Alcosser, Toni Lee, Troy Ellen Dixon, David Borglum, Alice Ayers,

Press: Julie Weisman of the Bulletin and Patrick L.

Not in attendance: Barbara Massy Bear, Richard Creeth, John Gardner, Ernie Ricco and Margaret DeRose.

Guests: John Nussbaum and David Stern

Call of order: 7:35

Tabled the approval of the minutes of the last meeting until next meeting.

Announcements:

Fundraiser May 14th 9:30-11:30. So far 65 tickets have been sold.

Volunteers: Set-up: Deb

Cleanup: Troy and Ted will try.

Platform: Ernie intends on having a draft available prior to the June meeting. If you have ideas contact Ernie.

Nominating: The first person Sharon had mentioned in January as a possible candidate for First Selectman has indicated he will not run. However, another strong potential candidate will be meeting with nominating on that position. Anyone interested in openings in any Boards, Committees or Commissions should see Toni. Currently they are looking for people for:

Planning and Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

Board of Finance

Patrice Gillespie was put forth for the Conservation Commission by the Nominating Committee and was approved as the nominee by the WDTC.

Kate Tepper was put forth for the Nominating Committee and was approved to be a member said committee by the WDTC.

Treasurer's Report: There is currently \$1283.19 on account. Trackside has already been paid for the upcoming fundraiser. There is an \$837.20 insurance payment on Monday. There are also checks for the payment of fundraising tickets that have yet to be deposited. It is anticipated we will raise about \$900 with the upcoming event.

There was a motion to raise the amount spent on the May 14th Fundraiser by \$300 from what was previously approved. The motion was approved.

Use of Public Access on Cable: There is a training course available for those interested in doing camera work on the public access stations on cable. Anyone interested should contact Sharon. Troy is interested and Toni may know someone who would be. This would be helpful if we had trained Democrats to do some shows in the fall for the campaign.

Campaign: Saturday June 25th is an all day Campaign Training Seminar by the State Central Committee with emphasis on the under funded candidate. Anyone interested should contact Sharon.

Membership: Sharon is the Chair and would be happy to have someone else cover this. She called new voters for the recent election. According to Peggy Reeves, the recent town vote had the lowest turn out since they have been using voting machines – 14%. The results in the election were:

	Approved	Too High	Too Low
Town Budget	1157	439	15
\$430,00 to replace boilers	1341-yes	253-no	
\$3,700,000 for athletic fields	927—yes	683-no	

Bylaws: Charlie Lewis found more things to be changed. And circulated copies for the members to review. The changes would be in:

Section 5.5 to correct a problem

Section 5.6 would be to accommodate actual practice used in nominations so they won't have to have written nominations.

Section 5.7 vacancy was ambiguous and needed clarification.

These will be voted on next meeting.

Caucus: A motion was approved to move the Democratic Caucus to July 25th.

Memorial Day Parade: The members were asked if they would like to March in the parade. Toni, Troy and Deb said they would be available to march. A critical mass is needed and Sharon would have a sign-up at the fundraiser. If a critical mass is not reached we won't participate.

John Nussbaum Candidate for Secretary of State in 2006:

He grew up in Darien and now lives in New Haven. He is a businessman who owns an LLC. He considers himself a democratic activist. The qualities he wants to demonstrate and run on in 2006 are:

Integrity

Ideas

New Leadership

Integrity: Needs to be restored after Rowland. He has no state contract. He has never earned revenue on a tax dollar. "There are no alarm bells in my background"

Ideas:

Campaign Finance Reform: Including full and complete transparent disclosure, public financing from the general fund and free media.

Disclosure of fundraisers

Successful Transition to new voting machines.

What came out of the 2000 Election was the Help America Vote Act thanks to Sen. Dodd. This raises the standard of how we vote. Two key points are accessibility and a paper trail. We have \$32 million but it is up to us. His goals are to raise voter confidence and voter participation and to make it economical. Our state Statutes need modified –they were written for yesterday's technology. Registrars and Town Clerks must be part of the

team to do this job. The ability to recount is essential. He says he is “open minded on the various technologies for voting machines.

The Secretary of State is the Chief Election Officer and Record Keeper for Corporations and oversees State Accounts.

Adjourned: 8:55

Submitted by Deborah McFadden