

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
June 7, 2005 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Sharon Grace, Toni Lee, Lois Alcosser, Scott Kimmich, John Gardner, Hallie Wofsy, David Borglum, Charlie Lewis, Fred Herot, Ernie Ricco, Troy Ellen Dixon, Alice Ayers,

GUESTS: Brian Lilly, Gail Lilly, Derek Lilly, Julie Weisberg (Wilton Bulletin), Louise Herot, Mark Mersky, Art Schultzman, Ned Greene, Amy Harris

Absent and Excused: Richard Creeth, Deborah McFadden, Ernie Loser, Margaret Derose

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS

The revised By-Laws are unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee

Sharon Grace will attempt to get Senator Chris Dodd for our November fundraiser. Toni Lee suggests that the Wilton DTC sponsors this together with another town. The New Canaan DTC is suggested, as they have connections with the Silvermine Guild.

The Wilton DTC is looking for a Finance Committee Chairperson. If anyone is interested, please let Wilton DTC Chair Sharon Grace know.

2. Nominating Committee

The Committee nominates Brian Lilly as the First Selectman candidate.

Wilton needs change. Brian Lilly represents a real change and real solutions for Wilton, as he cares about Wilton's direction.

Brian Lilly is a Wilton native, having first moved to Wilton as a 3rd grade child in 1973. He graduated in the Wilton High School class of 1983. He went to USC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Brian has built and developed several successful start-up ventures providing services to the legal field for over 10 years. In 2004, he sold his business and is currently working for the acquirers as a Manager of its Trial Services offering. In this capacity, he provides extensive trial management and coordination services to the legal profession. This includes coordination of case management for significant trials. This profession requires experienced negotiating and contracting skills, organization, technical expertise and most importantly, leadership and team building.

Brian moved back to Wilton in 1999 to raise his 2 children, specifically to raise his children in the town where he grew up. He now has 3 children.

Brian's priorities for Wilton are the following:

- 1) Obtain a coordinated non-partisan viewpoint for running Wilton. This will include a Tri-Board Commission consisting of the First Selectman, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education. This Tri-Board Commission will cut costs.
- 2) Enhance the Wilton quality of life. An acceleration of Wilton construction will be sought that will include finalization of Route 7, the water main on Westport Road and power lines in North Wilton. A Traffic Commission will be set up involving Planning and Zoning, Fire and Emergency Services.
- 3) Rationalize the Out-of-Control Budget. The tax structure will be re-examined, taking into account existing policies like school plans remaining status quo. Alternatives to funding will be reviewed—the level of federal vs state funding. Future budgets will be zero-based.

Brian will win because:

- He has the roll-up-your-sleeves attitude. He has started and run his own business. Wilton is a business.
- He works well with others and is cooperative—effective in building coalitions
- He works hard
- He solves problems
- He is effective

We will win by bringing our platform forward so that voters understand the issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is \$2,993.14.

3. Platform Committee

Ernie Ricco, Chair of the Platform Committee, discusses the new platform. Its main tents are:

- Platform is issues-based
- Democrats are starting with a blank sheet of paper in order to produce new ideas

The floor is opened for discussion/amendments to the Platform. The following suggestions are made:

- Include manual arts and/or industrial arts within the Education section, in order to recognize that there is a % of the population that does not go on or finish with a higher education.
- Rationalize costs for Special Education, as this is the 2nd largest education expense category after manpower costs
- Set up of a Town Planning and Management ongoing Tri-Board Committee. Currently, Tri-Boards are set up only for specific issues
- Support the efforts of the Deer Committee within the Environment section
- Review the Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Department to ensure that a proper budget is developed
- Improve athletic and arts programs for seniors within the Town Character section
- Raise awareness and support for Wilton Social Services

The above changes will be incorporated into the Platform by Ernie Ricco. These will be voted upon for approval, at the next DTC meeting (July 5, 2005).

Please note that the Wilton DTC has completed the By-Laws, and is completing its Platform and nomination of a First Selectman candidate. The letter writing campaign will begin in July, after the approval of the First Selectman candidate.

4. Campaign Committee

There is campaign training on July 25 and 26 in Hartford. This is free of charge, sponsored by the Democratic State Central. Anyone interested in attending, please let Chair Sharon Grace know.

5. Membership Committee

The interim Chair, Sharon Grace, made calls to new invitees to the Richard Blumenthal fund raising breakfast. Some attended and we will make an effort to involve these attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

Having a table at the July 4 Wilton celebration was discussed. We can give away balloons and bottles of water and use the same event to introduce Brian Lilly. The July 4 celebration will be at the Wilton High School Field between 4 to 8pm. There will be fireworks.

The following will attend the July 4 celebration:

- Troy Ellen Dixon
- Louise Herot
- Alice Ayers
- Toni Lee (maybe)

There was a \$150 appropriation for water and helium rental. An amended amount of \$300 was proposed. This was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual July 4 softball game between the Democrats and Republicans will be held at the Wilton High School softball diamond. Please let Chair Sharon Grace know if anyone knows people that are willing to play on our team.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.