

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
Sept 6, 2005 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Sharon Grace, John Gardiner, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, Charlie Lewis, Toni Lee, Hallie Wofsy, Lois Alcosser, Ted Hofstatter, Troy Ellen Dixon, John Gardiner, Deborah McFadden, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Art Shulman, Kate Tepper Kimmich, Eric Fanwick (Treasurer for Brian Lilly's campaign)

Absent and Excused: Scott Kimmich, Alice Ayers, Richard Creeth, Margaret Derose, Ernie Ricco, David Borglum, Barbara Massy Bear

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is \$2,757, not including the mailing and printing expenses. Mailing expenses will be around \$600 and printing expenses will be around \$400.

1. Nominating Committee

Toni Lee, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, reports that there are 8 open spots: Meetings will start next month to determine the Democratic candidates for:

- Conservation - 2
- Council on Public Facilities - 2
- Inland Wetlands
- Commission on Social Services - 2
- Parks & Recreation Commission

Paul Burnham was named to the Council of Ethics and is now chairing this Council.

2. Campaign Committee

Campaign letters have not been sent out yet, due to Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, the DTC website is currently down as Margaret deRose, our web mistress' computer is down.

The Campaign Kick-Off Party will be held on Friday, Sept 9 at 7:30 at Richard Creeth's office (Creeth, Richman Associates, 530 Danbury Road).

Candidates that will attend the Kick Off meeting are:

- John Gardiner
- Karen Birck
- Joseph Cugno

Each candidate will provide a paragraph on themselves and their recipe for Wilton, as well as the recipe for the dish they are bringing to the party.

If anyone would like to volunteer food and drink, please let Sharon Grace know.

The Wilton DTC supports the entire slate of Wilton candidates, but each candidate will have their own campaigns:

Position	Candidate
First Selectman	Brian Lilly
Board of Selectmen	Alice Ayers Richard Creeth
Board of Education	Karen Birck
Board of Finance	Andy Pforzheimer
Planning and Zoning	Doug Bayer Joseph Cugno
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Gardiner
Constable	Art Shulman Bo Mitchell Norris Brown

The campaign planning team is comprised of Brian Lilly, Alice Ayers, Richard Creeth, Toni Lee, Art Shulman, Sharon Grace, Mitch

The mechanics of First Selectman voting was explained:

1. First Selectman race (Brian Lilly v Bill Brennan). The loser of the First Selectman race will be pitted against the votes garnered by the next 3 highest vote garnering Selectmen
2. Selectman Race (4 Seats Available, 5 Candidates):
 - Loser of First Selectman Race
 - Alice Ayers, incumbent
 - Richard Creeth, incumbent
 - Marilyn Gould, incumbent
 - Hal Clark, Republican Town Committee Chair

The lowest vote-getter in this group will not be a Selectman. Everyone else will be seated on the Board of Selectmen.

There was a discussion whether 3 Democrats can, under state law, sit as Selectmen on the Board of Selectmen. The hypothetical involved Brian Lilly losing the First Selectman race and all three of our Democratic Candidates getting more votes than one of the Republican Selectman candidates. Sharon Grace will research this law and get back with the answer.

The Republicans are vulnerable this year, especially since there is an ongoing ethics investigation into Marilyn Gould's actions. Additionally, Hal Clarke's chances of winning are diminished. The Republicans in general, have had a tough time fielding candidates for this year's race.

In the last election, Wilton has voted:

Richard Creeth – approximately 600 votes

Alice Ayers – approximately 800 votes
Democratic First Selectman – 1,300 votes
Republican First Selectman– 2,500 votes

Each voter gets 1 vote for First Selectman and 2 votes for additional Selectmen.

The following are activities that the Wilton DTC needs volunteers for:

- **Making Phone Calls**

We need volunteers to sign up for designated periods of time (1-5 hours per week). Sharon Grace is the point person on this effort, which gets started the week of Sept 6 and continues through early October.

- **Campaign Planning**

If there are volunteers that are interested in campaign planning, please let Sharon know. The campaign planning team meets every Thursday at 7:30am at Richard Creeth's office (Creeth, Richman).

- **Assisting in fundraising**

- **Walk in Wilton with our candidates/for our candidates**

- **Train Station Meet-and-Greet**

- **Host a coffee at your home**

- **Write Letters to the Editor and Volunteer to Coordinate the Letters to the Editor**

Barbara Massy Bear will work on absentee ballots.

There is a suggestion to recruit high school students; however, there are so many other actions that need to be taken/completed. Maybe there is someone that can recruit students on the side.

The campaign slogan is the Right Direction for Wilton.

The overarching message is: We will bring Wilton in the right direction by making its government more open, more efficient and more disciplined.

Top 3 campaign issues will be:

- Controlling taxes
- Improving traffic conditions
- Streamlining town bureaucracy and communications with people and among departments

There was a discussion around the using the word 'bureaucracy' as this connotes negativity. Sharon Grace will bring this up at the next campaign planning session.

3. Finance Committee

The Wilton DTC is looking for a Finance Committee Chairperson. The most important task will be fundraising. Please consider stepping forward for this very important position.

There are currently no fundraising events scheduled. Additionally, Chris Dodd cannot guarantee to be at any fundraiser for the next 3 months. There are no moves for fundraising events. If there are thoughts on fundraising events, please let Sharon Grace know.

Sharon Grace will move forward in December

4. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is looking for a Membership Committee Chairperson.

It is suggested that there is a winter event during the last weekend in January, to honor those that have served and/or volunteered to be on town commissions.

OTHER BUSINESS

1) Wilton DTC Contribution to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

There has been an overwhelming desire to contribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

It is suggested that donations are sent to Wilton's own Americares. Americares allows for the highest % of actual funds sent to victims. Kurt Welling runs a tight ship. Also, there is the Network for Good that is chaired by a Wilton resident.

There is a motion to have the Chairperson, Sharon Grace, determine which reputable organization that the Wilton DTC will contribute funds to, in the name of the Wilton DTC.

There was a discussion on the amount of donation to be given—this cannot be too high, nor too low. There was a motion to donate \$400. This is not seconded. There was a motion to donate \$200. This is seconded. A Wilton DTC donation of \$200 to a charity determined by the Chair, Sharon Grace, is passed unanimously.

There was a suggestion to issue a press release on the Wilton DTC contribution. However, it would be more appropriate to get the charity that we give to, issue the press release.

2) Ernie Ricco has resigned the post of Officer of False Alarms. The Wilton DTC recognizes Ernie's contributions at this post. The Wilton DTC is looking for a replacement for Ernie.

3) There is a Parking and Hearing Officer nominated by the Republicans, to replace Charlie Lewis, who has selflessly served in this capacity for many years.

4) There will be a speaker at our next DTC meeting in October: Audrey Blondin, a Candidate for Secretary of State.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.