

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
Oct 11, 2005 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Sharon Grace, Hallie Wofsy, Lois Alcosser, Troy Ellen Dixon, Toni Lee, Ernie Loser, Barbara Massey Bear, Ted Hofstatter, Alice Ayers, Richard Creeth, Deborah McFadden, Margaret Reeves, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Eric Fanwick (Treasurer for Brian Lilly's campaign), Audrey Blondin (candidate for Secretary of State)

Absent and Excused: Scott Kimmich, Margaret Derose, Ernie Ricco, David Borglum, Fred Herot, Charlie Lewis, John Gardiner

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our fund raising letter generated approximately \$2,700. The balance in the Wilton DTC account is \$4,897.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Blumenthal is not running for Governor; however, he is still running for State Attorney General.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Nominating Committee

There are several Board positions that are up for renewal. Our candidates' positions will expire after Dec 31, 2005.

Inland/Wetlands has had a few good candidates. Franklin Wong was unanimously nominated by the Nominating Committee for the Inland/Wetlands Commission. He is currently retired but his background is in commercial real estate. He spent 3 years working with the Inland/Wetlands Commission for his own property.

Franklin Wong is unanimously nominated by the Wilton DTC for the Inland/Wetlands Commission.

Social Services

Parks and Recreation – our candidate wants to continue

Council on Public Facilities – our 2 candidates want to continue

2. Campaign Committee

We have conducted the campaign ID calls. 2 overall observations:

- There was a portion of voters that did not know our candidates, including Alice Ayers and Richard Creeth
- Issues brought up by voters include traffic congestion, decrease in taxes and school bus times

Discussion centered around using these issues in our campaigns—to mobilize and influence voters.

Although the Selectman candidates (Brian Lilly, Alice Ayers and Richard Creeth) have also raised their own funds, the Wilton DTC wants to support our candidates. The Wilton DTC suggests 3 mailings to voters:

- About the candidates
- Candidates’ priorities (need for a new direction)
- Get out the vote mailing

Please let Sharon Grace know if anyone wants to help with wording these mailings. The thought for the last mailing is that the Democrats can win in Wilton. It worked in 1973 and 1932. And it can happen again.

Urging folks to vote is of prime importance. The suggestion is to call voters the night before elections.

A campaign workshop/training session urges 3-12 mailings before the message sinks in with voters. Thus, the Wilton DTC suggests 3 mailings and 2 ads, even though ads are said to be merely to show our supporters that we are spending our money well (ads do not generally help campaigns). Mailings are going to go to voters who have participated in the last 2 elections.

2 options and their costs will be:

| | Option 1 | Option 2 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| 3 mailings | \$3,035 | \$3,035 |
| 2 half page ads | 1,320 | |
| 2 2/3 page ads | | 1,980 |
| TOTAL | \$4,355 | \$5,015 |

The Wilton DTC unanimously approved the expenditure of either of the options above.

The Wilton DTC needs help for the following activities:

- Fall Frolic on Oct 29 from 1-5pm
- Get out the vote calls on Nov 5 and Nov 8
- Handing out palm cards at the polls on Election Day
- Poll runners during/after Election Day

Every Thursday, starting next Thursday, Oct 20, will be set aside for campaign activities (e.g. mailings).

In January, the re-election to the Wilton DTC is due. Please let Sharon Grace know if all want to continue. This group has been a complete pleasure to work with and it is hoped that all continue on the Wilton DTC. It has been a labor of love.

GUEST SPEAKER

Audrey Blondin, candidate for Secretary of State, spoke to the Wilton DTC.

Audrey is the longest serving Democratic woman member of the Litchfield Board of Selectmen and currently serves as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. She most recently served as the 5th Congressional District for Kerry for President.

She has practiced law and has supported working families. She is against the new Bankruptcy Law signed into law by Bush. The new Bankruptcy Law is a complete sell-out to the credit card companies and an attack on working families.

Her campaign theme is a new and different kind of Secretary of State's office--that will foster communication between the state and communities.

She is for a higher standard of ethics as 59 towns in CT currently do not have Ethics Commission.

Recently, Susan Bysiewicz has announced that she will run again for Secretary of State and today, Richard Blumenthal has announced that he will run again for Attorney General.

Nevertheless, Audrey Blondin is running because she wants in fact, to be the Secretary of State. She is for the paper-trail on electronic voting machines, and for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

There was a discussion on the negatives of mechanical lever voting machines. There was an undercount in the last elections, as there were hundreds of votes lost.

Audrey is for accurate, secure, private voting (HAVA), whether it is by electronic voting machines or mechanical voting machines and if it is not broken, it does not require fixing.

Audrey is a self-funded candidate (as opposed to an entrenched Hartford political veteran) and therefore, cannot be bought.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.