

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
April 4, 2006 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: David Borglum, Deborah McFadden, Alice Ayers, Ted Hofstatter, Art Shulman, Richard Creeth, Lois Alcosser, Scott Kimmich, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, John Gardiner, Hallie Wofsy, Charlie Lewis, Brian Lilly, Barbara Massey-Bear (via phone), Sharon Grace, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Kathleen Warner, Robert Morgan, Nancy Faesy, Patricia Sesto (Wilton Director of Environmental Affairs), Tom Burgess, Brian Shea, Eugene Jones, John Kalamarides, Shirley Lewis, Jennifer Ahearn, Doug (Gene) Jones, Mayor Dan Malloy (D-Stamford, candidate for CT Governor Democratic nomination)

Absent and Excused: Ernie Ricco, Toni Lee, Troy Ellen Dixon, Margaret Reeves, Margaret Derose

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

The following were unanimously elected for the positions designated:

Position	Elected
Chair	Sharon Grace
Vice-Chair	Deborah McFadden
Treasurer	Hallie Wofsy
Secretary	Jon Tan

2. Diane Farrell Campaign

Jerome Wyaron from the Farrell campaign spoke to the DTC. The Farrell campaign is asking for:

- Phone banking volunteers
- Letters to the Editor campaign volunteers

Please let Jerome know if you know of any volunteers for these efforts. Jerome's email address is Jerome.wyaron@farrellforcongress.com

On letter writing, we can focus on George Bush's visit to Bridgeport tomorrow, April 5 at 11 am, Bridgeport City Hall Annex.

Chris Shays has more and more voted together with Bush and the neocon faction. It is time that Chris is replaced.

3. GUEST SPEAKER – Mayor Dan Malloy, Candidate for Governor

Mayor Dan Malloy, candidate for CT Governor Democratic nomination came to speak to the Wilton DTC. This is Dan's third appearance before the Wilton DTC.

Mayor Dan Malloy has been the Mayor of Stamford for 11 years. He is the longest serving mayor in Stamford, surpassing the last record of 8 years.

Dan's record in Stamford proves that he is the most competent for the position of Governor:

- Dan Malloy lowered Stamford's crime rate by 63% by instituting community policing and increased the police force by 30%. Stamford was named one of the safest cities in the US for the 3rd year running.
- While Mayor, the City of Stamford built 4000 units of housing, including 3000 downtown.
- Stamford has a AAA bond rating. Dan has shown fiscal good sense. City size has declined by 12%, particularly by decreasing administration.
- There are 5000 new jobs since Dan became Mayor. This is significant since CT, as a state, is ranked 50th in job creation. Dan Malloy proposes Universal Pre-K as the major driver for job creation.

The current Administration is known for its lack of accomplishment (failures) in the following areas:

- Transportation
- Job Growth
- Education
- Senior benefits

CT has a 67% higher tax bill than the average state in the union.

Dan's strength is expending political capital to get objectives to fruition. Dan's philosophy of government is that government is a partner.

He has established himself as a national leader in early childhood education, smart economic development and crime reduction.

We need a Democrat that will win. The days of a Democratic majority electing Democratic public servants are gone. We have a current environment where there are more independents. Dan Malloy has shown that he has a consensus-building style and more importantly, that he can win in a diverse city like Stamford, where there are large numbers of both Republicans and independents.

Diane Farrell has endorsed Dan Malloy.

Dan Malloy wants to be Governor because he wants to leave the state a better place, just like he has made Stamford a better place. Dan Malloy has overcome his learning disability adversity and has overcome adversity in Stamford. Dan Malloy asks for your support and the delegate's votes at the primary on May 20, 2006.

If anyone would like to contact the Malloy campaign, please reach out to Josh Fideli, the 4th Congressional District coordinator for the Malloy campaign. His email address is Josh@DanMalloy.com.

4. **SPEAKER** – Nancy Faesy and Patricia Sesto (Wilton Director of Environmental Affairs) on the Offinger property bond issue

The Wilton survey shows that Wilton residents value the town for the following characteristics: schools, character (rural nature) and town size. Character and the rural nature are kept by maintaining the Open Space initiative.

The Offinger farm is a 15.7 acre land on Chestnut Hill Road. Cost is \$2.0 million or \$333k per lot (parcel is appraised at \$4.5 million or \$750k per lot). Open space protection will be achieved via easement. The easement will extinguish the right to develop the land. The easement will go with the land (and will be preserved, regardless of the owner of the land). As an added check, Wilton Land Trust will be a co-owner of the land. However, the Offinger family will continue to own the land currently.

This is the last unprotected farm and a link to our agricultural history. Additionally, there is no other open space protection opportunity in South Wilton.

Important Dates to remember are:

- April 15 - Site Walk
- May 7 - Town Vote

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is about \$1,400. Next month, there will be an insurance bill of \$900.

6. **Election of Committee Chairs**

The following were unanimously elected for the positions designated:

Position	Elected
Nominating Chair	Toni Lee
Finance Chair	Barbara Massey Bear
By-Laws Chair	Charlie Lewis
Campaign Chair	Ted Hoffstatter

Campaign Chair – Ted will push a pro-active campaign season.

Finance Chair – Barbara Massey Bear will be driving solid, well-planned fund raising. Barbara is a professional fund raiser, by profession. Two thoughts are a celebrity barbecue (some invitee thoughts are Blumenthal, and a cocktail event at the Wilton Library.

Nominating Chair – Toni Lee will push for a standardization of interview questions and nomination criteria.

By-Laws Chair – Charlie Lewis will work on the already re-passed By-Laws, although there may be some changes around endorsements

There is still an opening for Membership Chair.

Sharon will call DTC members to agree to serve on Committees, in an effort to be more focused.

Lois Alcosser is named as the backup Secretary to Jon Tan, to fill in for the few times that Jon Tan cannot make it to the DTC meetings due to business commitments. Deb McFadden is named as a 2nd backup in the cases that both Lois and Jon cannot make it.

7. Finance Committee Report – April 22d Fundraiser Ticket Sales

30 tickets have been sold. We need at least 44 tickets to break even.

70 tickets represent a good goal. 90 tickets will be a slam dunk success.

Lt. Gov. Kevin Sullivan is an engaging speaker. He was our speaker 2 years ago.

8. The 2006-2007 Town Budget (Alice Ayers & Richard Creeth)

The Selectman's budget of \$23m represents only about 20% of the overall budget. However, this represents a 13% increase year over year. There was particular attention to maintenance activities that were neglected in the past.

The Fire Department came in with a very tight budget. The Police Department came in with an increased staff request of 44 policemen.

Library and Trakside proposed large year over year increases. Although the Board of Selectmen reduced the Library's request (the Wilton Bulletin called this cutting), the Board raised the Library's budget by \$200k over last year. The Board of Selectmen also reduced Trakside's request.

Fuel (and fuel by-products like asphalt) and benefits cost have risen significantly.

A property tax increase of a little bit below 5% is anticipated.

9. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the following DTC meetings are approved:

- December 2005
- January 2006
- February 2006

- March 2006

10. Announcements

There is a suggestion to have a revolving designate to discuss a current event topic. The topic discussed can be the subject of our letter writing effort.

For our next meeting, we will have a discussion on the voting process—important for the upcoming gubernatorial elections. The Registrar of Voters will be here to discuss this.

11. Endorsement for Senate Candidates?

Scott Kimmich puts forward a motion for the Wilton DTC to endorse Ned Lamont for the Senatorial nomination on the Democratic ticket at the Primary slated for May 20, 2006.

A motion is made to table the vote until the next DTC meeting. This is unanimously agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.