

Wilton Democratic Town Committee
May 9, 2006 Meeting
Approved Minutes

Attendees: Troy Ellen Dixon, John Kalamarides, Scott Kimmich, Ernie Loser, Toni Lee, David Borglum, Alice Ayers, Ted Hoffstatter, Art Shulman, Brian Lilly, Deb McFadden, Sharon Grace, Lois Alcosser

Guests: Kathleen Warner, Peggy Reeves, Registrar, Carole Kleinfeld, Assistant Registrar

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Lois Alcosser is elected acting Secretary.

April 4 minutes to be revised.

Treasurer Hallie Wofsy is absent because of illness, but Treasurer's Report is: Insurance paid (\$837.20) -- this covers three events from May '06 to May '07. (Any insurance for additional events will be paid as we go.)

There is \$1970 in bank. \$1400 was raised from breakfast fundraiser. Art Shulman sold most ticket (13).

Peggy Reeves and Carole Kleinfeld presented their report on the League of Women Voters Study on town government, the annual Town Meeting and recent actions of the state legislature.

Recent Town Meeting turnout was the worst in history – 13.666% turnout. Bonding issues passed. Budget was approved 1041- 105. However, this year was the largest voter turnout for new voters registered at the high school (94) most of whom registered as unaffiliated voters.

League Women Voters study on town meeting government consensus is to be released soon. Major results: retain town meeting, with minor changes. Appoint new charter commission to review terms of office of selectmen and suggest overlapping terms. Consider changing the current ruling that the losing First Selectman candidate's votes are counted and may result in that person being on the board. (Tantamount to running twice.) 146 people responded to the survey.

Carole Kleinfeld reported on the highlights of the 2006 legislative session.

- 1) Campaign finance reform. Several loopholes still exist.
- 2) Greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles
- 3) Sellers of homes must notify buyers of well water test results

- 4) Cap pf contributions for election campaigns
- 5) An omnibus transportation bill expected to be signed (commuter stations, I-95 expansion, bonding provisions.)
- 6) Bill to give emergency contraception to sexual assault victims turned down.(Catholic hospitals opposed.)
- 7) Elimination of unhealthy snacks in schools.
- 8) Reporting of lost or stolen firearms (not passed by Representatives, passed in State Senate.
- 9) Add 5 cent bottle redemption to water bill (not passed— beverage company lobbyists against it.)
- 10) Omnibus transportation bill re; commuter stations, I-95 expansion, bonding provisions expected to be signed

Toni Lee inquired about Toni Boucher's votes and said it would be helpful to have the record of her votes.

There was some discussion about AT&T receiving a statewide franchise to provide cable TV. Sharon said it would be good to have competition, Brian said new laws would be needed.

Peggy Reeves talked about the election and voting status. She said the 14-day registration requirement is "archaic" Same day registration would be good, statewide. 14 days still stands for mail-in registration.

Re: voting machines. Machines should provide access for handicapped, privacy and a paper trail. For Wilton, lever machines will be kept, and with one DRE (electronic machine). Evidently choice of voting machines for CT has been problematic. Peggy recommended optical scan method for counting votes. (This is done now for absentee ballots.) Votes are never lost and not subject to tampering and there is permanent record of votes.

There is also a voting machine available for visually handicapped people which Carole Kleinfeld said was an excellent machine, but Sec. State not revealing her opinion.

The League of Women Voters will sponsor several pre-election debates. There will also be debates between Shays and Farrell.

There was some discussion about town government. Delegates to the various conventions were reviewed and there was a reminder that May 23 is the date for the caucus for Registrar (Peggy Reeves).

Peggy mentioned that a decision was made by the Ethics Committee that there was a perception of financial conflict in the Marilyn Gould matter, but no action will be taken.

Convention schedule :

May 23 - caucus for registrar

May 15 – Diane Farrell convention, 7 pm Westport Town Hall

May 19, 20 –State Convention at CT Expo Center

Those who had attended the Probate Court convention on May 8 suggested that there be more education about the probate court, so that we might have a candidate next time, and also, that Paul Burnham was interested in Probate Court reform.

Toni Lee inquired about the way the various delegates vote at conventions and was told that the DTC doesn't control delegate votes, they vote as individuals.

As for further fundraisers and events, there will be a Bar b Q in September, after Labor Day, with “celebrity grillers.” Barbara will need volunteers and Ted, Brian and Hallie said they will assist her.

Campaign Chair Ted H. announced that everyone would be receiving a campaign packet and he encouraged people to volunteer to make phone calls for Diane Farrell. Tues. May 16 has been set aside for a Phone for Diane evening, and the DTC members were asked to talk to their unaffiliated and Republican friends about the Farrell campaign.

Ted continued with info that a recent consensus indicated that 72% think US Troops should be out of Iraq within a year. The primary for US Senate is Aug. 8, and since many people will be away, it is possible to apply for an absentee ballot anytime and the ballots themselves will be printed about 4 wks prior to Primary Day.

Richard, Fred and Deb are on the DTC Campaign committee.

Membership Committee—Brian Lilly is the new chairman and plans to talk to new residents and unaffiliated voters.

Nominating Committee – The following people were nominated and unanimously appointed to return as members of the Nominating Committee: Kate Kimmich, Peggy Reeves, Louise Herot, John Gardiner, Charlie Flynn, Troy Ellen Dixon, Ernie Loser, Ernie Ricco, Art Shulman,

One new member is appointed unanimously: John Kalamarides.

The motion to endorse Ned Lamont was not taken off the table. Discussion of the merits of Lieberman vs Lamont followed with Deb McFadden expressing strong support of Lieberman: (Good points: 18 years without any scandals, looks beyond CT to see the bigger picture.) When Sharon, Carole and Peggy attended Hartford conference, Barak Obama said Lieberman was his mentor. Questions of Lieberman's support of the war were discussed with the suggestion that security in the Middle East is Lieberman's greatest concern and that was the motivation for his support of the war. Troy Ellen Dixon was not certain that we know what Joe Lieberman's motivations will be on this or other issues involving the Middle East.

As for governor's race, Dan Malloy and John DeStefano were compared, and though both candidates have excellent qualifications, it was generally thought Malloy's leadership was good, his accomplishments in Stamford impressive and he would be able to come to consensus with Republicans.

Alice Ayres reminded everyone of an important public hearing on Underage Drinking that would take place at 7 p.m. at the next Bd. of Selectmen meeting.

Meeting was adjourned 9:40 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Alcosser (for Jon Tan)

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