

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
September 5, 2006 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Hallie Wofsy, Scott Kimmich, Kathleen Warner, Deborah McFadden, Brian Lilly, Lois Alcosser, Charlie Lewis, Toni Lee, Ted Hofstatter, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, John Kalamarides, David Borglum, John Gardiner, Art Shulman, Barbara Massy Bear, Sharon Grace, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Paul Burnham, Julie Weisberg (Associate Editor, Wilton Bulletin), Josh Fedeli (4th CD Campaign, Ned Lamont for US Senate)

Absent and Excused: Richard Creeth, Ernie Ricco, Alice Ayers, Troy Ellen Dixon, Margaret Reeves, Margaret Derose

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOMINATION OF KATHLEEN WARNER TO JOIN THE DTC

-- our 25th member!

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(obtain from Sharon)

SPEAKER – Craig Schiavone, candidate for State Senate, 26th District

Craig Schiavone points out the following issues:

- Highway gridlock
- Increasingly high property taxes
- Low reimbursement of mandated school programs
- Little defense of our open space
- Poorly planned affordable housing projects

Craig's proposed solutions are:

1. Speed up efficiency improvements in rail service; provide tax breaks for Ride Share and increase commuter parking
2. Get 'available' state dollars to our Town to help lighten the property tax burden.
3. Revamp the current system of State school subsidies (the State must pay for mandated programs)
4. Enhance pollution reduction in Long Island Sound; increase State support for local open space preservation
5. Promote common sense approach to affordable housing laws; end developers' pressure tactics

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

-- BBQ fundraiser

Bylaws Committee

No report.

Nominating Committee

Toni Lee, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has lined up a lot of meetings to meet with prospective candidates.

Platform Committee

No report. Ernie Ricco, Chair of the Platform Committee, will begin conducting platform issues meetings after the Elections in November. Similar to last year, the meetings will be conducted with all interested town Democrats.

Membership Committee

Brian Lilly, Chair of the Membership Committee, will create a letter to be mailed out to new town residents. The draft letter will be shared with the DTC next meeting. 144 new Democrats registered between June and August 2006.

Since June, the number of registered Democrats has been increasing every month. The number of registered Republicans has been decreasing and the number of Independents has been either stable or decreasing.

Campaign Committee

1. BBQ on Sept 9. Committed attendees will be Diane Farrell, Mary Glassman and Craig Rebecca Schiavone. 56 tickets have been sold. We are looking for more.
2. Phone Banking for Diane Farrell is occurring on Tuesday, Sept 12 and Thursday, Sept 14 at Farrell Headquarters in Westport, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This month's calls will focus on letting undecided voters know about Diane's upcoming Library visit.
3. Diane Farrell Speaks at the Wilton Library on Tuesday, Sept 19 at 7pm. Craig Rebecca Schiavone will attend too. Wine and cheese will be served, courtesy of Fat Cat.
4. The Fat Cat Campaign Blow Out will occur on Tuesday, Oct 10 at 7pm at the Fat Cat Pie Co in Norwalk on Wall St. Diane Farrell, Ned Lamont, John DeStefano, Craig Rebecca Schiavone, Susan Bysiewicz and Bob Duff have all committed to attend.
5. Possible future events are separate events for Ned Lamont and John DeStefano to speak at the Library.
6. Letter Writing. Ideas for letter writing can be obtained for the 'issues' section of either the Farrell or Lamont websites.

7. If there are events that we think are good for either Diane Farrell or Craig Rebecca Schiavone to attend, please pass these on to either Sharon Grace or to Ted Hofstatter.
8. There is a suggestion to have a rally in Wilton to increase voter awareness on John DeStefano and Ned Lamont. Kathleen Warner will coordinate with Ted Hofstatter, the Farrell campaign and neighboring town DTC's.
9. The following DTC members are the point people for the campaigns:
 - Ned Lamont Campaign – Scott Kimmich
 - Diane Farrell Campaign – Ted Hofstatter
 - John DeStefano Campaign – Fred Herot
 - Craig Schiavone Campaign – TBD (if anyone is interested, please let Ted Hofstatter or Sharon Grace know)
10. The DTC unanimously authorizes the following campaign related expenditures:
 - \$190 for the Wilton Library Diane Farrell event on Tuesday, Sept 19
 - \$300 for Fat Cat

Ted Hofstatter will donate \$100 in kind for this Library event.

11. Ned Lamont Campaign for US Senate

Josh Fedeli, 4th CD Campaign, Ned Lamont for US Senate, asks for the Wilton DTC support.

The campaign will be run at the grass-roots level at the 4th CD, at the voting districts level. Volunteers are needed to be the District Captains. District captains will be responsible for neighborhood pushes--making phone calls, knocking on doors and looking for Ned Lamont visibility events.

The Ned Lamont 4th CD Campaign HQ is in Norwalk. The campaign is well-organized.

All are invited to a Volunteer Kickoff Event on Sept 13 at 6:30pm at the Lamont Headquarters.

The Ned Lamont Campaign is working hard since Ned Lamont's poll numbers are behind by anywhere between 2-8 points. Ned's approach is not going to change. Ned's message is not going to change. Ned represents a moderate Democrat, a fiscally-conservative and socially liberal Democrat.

The Ned Lamont Campaign is looking for volunteers. Please let Josh Fedeli know if you are interested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. There is a motion to endorse Ned Lamont for US Senate. There is a majority vote to call the vote (15 ayes-1 nay).

Ned Lamont is endorsed by the Wilton DTC, by a majority (14 ayes – 1 nay – 1 abstention).

2. There is a motion to consider that the Wilton DTC ask Joe Lieberman to cease his campaign. The Hampton DTC and 17 others have signed an Open Letter to Joe, asking that he cease his campaign.

The Wilton DTC voted by a majority to sign on to the Open Letter asking Joe to cease his campaign (15 ayes – 1 nay).

3. Paul Burnham reports that our town resident, Nick Madaras of Stewart Lane died Saturday, Sept. 2, in Iraq where he was serving as a member of the United States Army. Nick was a 2005 graduate from Wilton High School, played soccer while at high school (Paul was a coach) and was a friend of Paul's son. Nick enlisted in the Army following graduation and left for Iraq on February 21, 2006.

Let it not be said that Wilton has not supported the war effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.