

Wilton Democratic Town Committee Minutes
February 12, 2008
Town Hall Annex

PRESENT: John Kalamarides (Chair), David Borglum, Paul Burnham, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, Deb McFadden, Margaret DeRose, John Gardiner, Charlie Lewis, Eric Fanwick, Ted Hoffstatter, Richard Creeth, Sharon Grace

GUESTS: Peggy Reeves (Registrar), Laurie McTeague, Thomas Dec, John Hartwell (Candidate for State Senate)

7:33 – no quorum, but discussion begins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John announces the Volunteer of the Month award and recognizes Fred Herot and Deborah McFadden who both stood in the rain on primary day for Jim Himes, candidate for Congress. Recognition will be made on the website (www.wiltondems.org), as well.

Barbara Myers, the Democratic nominee, of 5 Crowne Pond Lane was unanimously appointed to the Board of Education by the Board of Education to fill the position left vacant by Troy Ellen Dixon's resignation.

There is discussion that John Kalamarides should write a letter on behalf of the DTC to support the efforts of the Alliance for Sensible Airspace to challenge the FAA's handling of the change in flight patterns over Fairfield County.

For more information about this issue, go to the wiltonct.org website and choose the FAA link.

Citizens are encouraged to write Senator Joe Lieberman who has sat on his hands on this issue. Deb McFadden states that this is an uphill battle, but winnable because the FAA broke so many of its own policies. This issue affects our quality of life and real estate values.

JOHN HARTWELL, CANDIDATE FOR STATE SENATE

John Kalamarides introduces John Hartwell who is running for the 26th District State Senate seat now held by Judith Freedman. John Hartwell has an MBA from Yale, taught overseas, worked for Chase bank and is now a consultant and heads Democracy for America.

John Hartwell discussed the campaign:

1. Judith Freedman has been our state senator for 20 years and has a weak record.
2. John has many Fairfield County contacts.
3. This should be a big Democratic year.
4. Campaign Finance Reform in the form of public financing has made it possible to run against an entrenched incumbent. For a state senate campaign, he has to raise \$15,000 from 300 contributors and he will get \$85,000 from the state.

John Hartwell discusses the issues:

Fairfield County is an affluent part of an affluent state and we need to remain competitive and preserve our quality of life.

1. Health Care – many in Fairfield County have not insurance or pay a lot (high deductibles) for it. Small and new businesses need more support in this area from state government. For America to be competitive, this issue must be addressed.

John would like to see

a. the pooling of healthcare – to allow municipalities and people working on their own to buy into state-run health pools. There is a proposal to at least do this with municipalities, which will save municipalities \$1000-2000 per employee.

b. In the long run, a single payor Health Care system should be created.

c. Improve the Husky program – the rates paid by this program are so low that doctors cannot accept it.

2. Transportation

Transportation is a resource that drives our economic engine. And we need to improve our environment by moving people out of cars and onto trains and busses.

Specific problems: Route 7 is a mess and branch line trains are under-utilized.

The solution is to invest in . . .

Re-electrifying branch lines

Providing sufficient parking

Raising the capacity of the branch line (350 long-awaited RR cars will retire many current ones).

These investments will last a long time.

3. Affordable Housing/Workforce Housing

4. Education

Connecticut is the 2d worst state at retaining High School Students to go to college. We have a pretty good state and community higher education system, but the 1st job most people take is in the state they go to college.

Invest in our colleges and community college system to get more kids in and to support the technical fields to try to keep more kids in Connecticut.

8:05pm – the DTC has reached its quorum.

PEGGY REEVES RE: THE FEBRUARY 5 PRIMARY

Registrar of Voters Peggy Reeves speaks about the Primary

Charlie Lewis is thanked for his work as moderator at Driscoll.

This was a very exciting primary; one that Peggy has never seen the likes of before. As busy as it was, the registrars office only encountered minor problems that were quickly remedied. (For example, one tabulator malfunctioned, but a new one was on hand to replace it). Unfortunately, some unaffiliated voters thought they were registered Democrats and could not vote on primary day. However, many took registration cards and registered as Democrats – so many, in fact, that they ran out of cards!

From Jan 1 to Febg 5 – 207 Us changed to Ds, which on 75 Us changed to Rs.

Of the new voters, 229, or 48% became Ds (usually 26%)
And the number of Democrats in town has risen.

	Dems	Reps	Unaffil
May 31, 2007	2592 24%	4193	4069
Feb 12, 2008	2931 27%	4275	

More Democrats than Republicans voted on Primary Day, as well.
This is the tip of the iceberg and we have much to look forward to come Fall.
Peggy will need help at the polls on Election Day!

THE CAMPAIGNS

Laurie McTeague speaks about the primary as a supporter of Barack Obama
She was inspired to work for Barack Obama and went to New Hampshire for the primary
Laurie felt the energy and saw people of different backgrounds working for him. Laurie believes the campaign is not just about an individual, but about the possibilities for the future.

Laurie became 4th District Deputy Coordinator and had 100 volunteers who made calls and knocked on every door in Norwalk and Stamford. The local campaign was so well run that the field coordinators from the campaign supported them, rather than replacing them. Barack Obama's victories show his depth and many CT volunteers are headed to Rhode Island and Vermont for the March 4 primaries there.

Sharon Grace spoke about the primary as a supporter of Hillary Clinton
Locally, the Clinton campaign also made calls and canvassed. Sharon said it was gratifying to see Hillary Clinton win the large states, and particularly Massachusetts. She said that it has been hard to see Hillary Clinton in a dead heat with Barack Obama after so many months when she was ahead in the polls, but that Clinton supporters have realized that Hillary needs their help to get over the top. The Clinton volunteers are determined to work hard for Hillary just as Hillary has worked hard to serve the people. Sharon notes that Hillary has already raised \$13 million, which is about what she raised in all of January.

Ernie Loser states that he is proud that such a change has occurred in America that a woman and an African-American are serious contenders for the White House.

Special thanks is given to Richard and Margaret Creeth for letting the campaigns use their offices for phone calling.

JIM HIMES

John states that he would like Wilton to have 6 coffees for Jim Himes.
- John is having one of them on Saturday (it is not a fundraiser)
- Deb volunteers to have an event for Jim.

The minutes are approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report

We paid \$302 for signs and have \$1098.79 in the bank. Insurance in May will cost \$930.

Jon Tan is resigning as Secretary and Eric Fanwick is resigning as Treasurer.

Sharon Grace is unanimously elected Secretary.

Jon Tan is unanimously elected Treasurer.

Motion that John Kalamarides write a letter to the FAA to support the efforts of the Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planners carries, with two abstentions. We just want the FAA to follow a fair process.

Deb McFadden is unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed as an Elector. She is hardworking, dedicated and deserves the honor. She has endorsements from the Attorney General, Secretary of State, former State Chair George Jepson, Mark Markus and Martha Aasen, as well. (Electors make up the Electoral College which meet to officially elect the President of the United States.)

Wilton Commons

Richard Creeth states that the tax credits application is before CT Housing and Finance Authority again and they need our letters of support for Wilton Commons.

Richard Creeth moves that John Kalamarides write a letter of support for Wilton Commons and, after a second, it carries unanimously.

Website Committee

Margaret DeRose discusses the redesigned website, which is now professionally hosted. There will be forms, navigation tabs, and e-mail options and even Paypal options. What she needs is content, including editorials, event information, information from board meetings and the campaign.

The fee for hosting is \$20/month. Paul Burnham moves that we pay up to \$20/mo for hosting the website and if a better deal can be found then Margaret should make it. The motion is seconded and is unanimously approved.

Finance

John Kalamarides spoke with Barbara Massy Bear and they suggest May 17 or May 31 for a fundraising breakfast. Sharon Grace mentions that we had a late Spring Breakfast last year and it was thought that people were too busy to attend and tickets were harder to sell. April 5 or May 3 are considered better alternatives and the Finance Committee should move forward with planning and finding speakers. Susan Bysiewitz, Jim Himes and Chris Dodd are discussed as possibilities.

Motion to approve funds for Spring Fundraising Breakfast approved unanimously.

John Kalamarides hopes the DTC can send out its own fundraising letter.

John Kalamarides will write a note to Karen Birck, chair of the Board of Education commending her achievement in getting a unanimous vote for the education budget this year.

9:17am – the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Grace
Secretary

DTC APPROVED March 4, 2008