

MINUTES
WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
October 6, 2009, 7:30PM, Room B

PRESENT: John Kalamarides (Chair), Richard Creeth, Carol Ball, Ernie Ricco, Art Shulman, Sharon Grace, Fred Herot, Mitch Hirsch, Lois Alcosser, Tom Burgess, Deb McFadden, Ted Hoffstatter, John Gardiner, Dan Troph,

GUESTS: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Chris Stroup, Kelly Franklin, Ron Kashden, Nancy Woods

Meeting called to order 7:32pm by John Kalamarides

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer of Month is Mitch Hirsch. Mitch has done great work this Fall in terms of writing press releases, getting candidate information together and blogging. "Mitch we are just very happy with what you are doing."

Daniel Darst has resigned from the committee – He and Rebecca are expecting twins; Margaret Derosé has resigned, moving upstate. Jon Tan resigning, moving also.

Now we have 3 vacancies on the DTC.

We are looking for members who have shown a desire to work for Democratic causes, who has met or worked with a number of DTC members, who can devote time to our efforts. Responsibilities include attending 9 out of 12 meetings per year; taking part in discussions, helping to raise \$250, working on our fundraisers and supporting our campaigns.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from September are approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Art Shulman gives the report.

\$6221 balance after all expenses for BBQ and fundraising letter.

At BBQ, took in \$4400, \$2723 expenses, netted \$1800

Fundraising letter: \$3152, cleared \$2000

Checks were smaller this year from letter

BIDEN DODD HIMES event

Mitch and Ted went:

Mitch gives a summary – an administration sponsored event run by the White House Staff with Joe Biden, Chris Dodd and Jim Himes. They built a site for 400 or 500 people, with chairs and a podium, lots of press, cameras, security. Jim Himes rode up with Joe Biden; Himes gave a great speech about jobs. Dodd did similarly and expanded on that topic by talking about the economic recovery program, i.e. the stimulus program. For example, reconstruction near exit 46 on the Merritt employs 100 people. Sen. Dodd talked about healthcare for the economy and we are going to get the public option.

Then Biden talked extemporaneously about Dodd and Himes and their good work. People were very responsive.
Dodd is fired up and ready for the healthcare debate.

President Obama is coming on November 24.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Ted Hoffstatter gives the report. Ran into Laura Stewart of NESC. Triboard meeting talks about regionalization and NESC wants to help us out. NESC believes regionalization should come from the ground up so we can get ahead of the state.

Ted is taking over as BOS liaison on Trackage. Rob Stebbetz gave a presentation on how Trackage will make a profit. Support from BOF on trackage was low, not constructive. Ted says Rob has a good vision.

Richard Creeth adds:

1. He is concerned about the budget and Wilton needs to find savings.
 - a. The energy commission has discovered ways to save energy and money but it will take capital. Richard suggests Wilton do something unusual – raise money for bond issue without knowing what project it will be spent on. Use this bonded capital only on projects that give us positive cash flow and a positive ROI and that reduce carbon footprint.
 - b. Rep. Peggy Reeves (143rd), Toni Boucher & Richard went to Hartford to plead case for Wilton Commons. The three of them put their heads together and thought our state leaders should establish a capital program for healthcare that if they were to invest heavily in Wilton Commons, you could get a demonstrated return. Sen. Boucher's staff drafted a letter and they sent it out this week.

The idea is to invest capital to make savings.

Lois asks with regard to Wilton Commons, how is the return going to come?

Richard responds that when people can't care for themselves, the state takes care of them. State nursing homes cost \$8-10 thousand a month and is far more than people need. If they go to Wilton Commons, then rent is \$700 to \$2000 so there is a savings in fees. The state doesn't have an option for those seniors who need a little assistance, so these seniors end up using the more expensive state home

CAMPAIGN REPORT

John says Deb McFadden is chair and has been working very, very hard on this and the committee is working very hard. 7 or 8 folks putting a lot into it.

Deb is going to ask you to approve the budget. The current amount budgeted is \$6000.

Clipboards with volunteer opportunities for the campaign are passed around.

Mitch Hirsch discusses the importance of letters to the editor, especially now that we are so close to election day.

The Board of Finance race: The Republicans have 2 candidates and we have 2 candidates for 3 seats. Bob Kelso is retiring, thus the 3rd seat. If only running our incumbent, then we would be conceding a seat. We have Chris Stroup who is one of the most qualified and committed Wiltonians to run. We need people to support both so we can get more votes than at least one Republican. This is important because the Republicans have already cut after school programs, and indicate further cuts are coming and fees will have to be paid, which might leave some kids out.

CANDIDATE NIGHT

Carol Ball discusses the plans for this event.

October 13, 6:30-8

Quick set up.

We will serve food, have drinks. Volunteers sign up passed around.

1 person to pick up ice lemons and limes

CANDIDATE EVENTS

Carol Ball has a list of events around town encouraging candidates to go to.

2 time slots at the Village Market

Introduce candidates at pumpkin festival.

ELECTION DAY

Sharon Grace asks for volunteers to help with phone banking and Election Day activities.

ADVERTISING

Deb McFadden discusses the advertising campaign:

Ads

Signs

Direct Mailing pieces

Deb Moves that campaign committee be allowed to spend coffers of DTC.

Discussion of how costs must be split with Chris Stroup – the DTC cannot pay for Chris Stroup's part of any ad, mailing, etc.

Motion to spend up to \$7500 as long as treasurer approves.

Second.

Discussion

Motion unanimously carries.

DEBATES

LWV having event on the 20th – 4 candidates for Board of Finance

- it is important to get people out.
- come with questions

WEBSITE

Kelly Franklin and Ron Kashden have volunteered to re-create our website. Tonight she will propose what we should do with it. Carol and Art have worked with Kelly and Ron.

Kelly says she was introduced to WDTC via the website. Kelly got involved in politics through the Obama campaign and was interested to find out that the WDTC is interested not only in local issues, but state and national as well.

Kelly not only worked to improve aesthetics and graphic interest of the website, but also to make our site searchable, keep it updated with new content and events, allow people to join our opt-in email list and send questions through contact forms, and archive information. Run websites for large companies and grateful to get chance to do this. In addition to trying to improve aesthetics – Taking care that behind scenes, search engines will find our site. Little things she worries about in building this.

Tag line: “Improving our town, state and nation

One issue: Which DTC members want their email address on the website?

Mitch says this is solid gold – look, feel, functionality

\$9.95/month

\$179.50 for a year

Now nothing for a year.

\$10/month

Assuming you want to move ahead –

Art moves we transition from our current website to Kelly’s creation, which is functional, beautiful, and half-the-price.

Second.

Motion unanimously carries.

Kelly will donate the costs of start-up. The DTC offers thanks and appreciation with enthusiastic applause for her work and generosity.

PLATFORM REPORT

Platform: if anyone has any articles or anything pertinent to the platform to use as links on website please email Ernie Ricco.

Motion to adjourn. Second. Unanimously carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Grace
Secretary