

## MINUTES

Wilton Democratic Town Committee  
March 5, 2010, Wilton Town Hall

**PRESENT:** John Kalamarides, Carol Ball, Kelly Franklin, Mitchell Hirsch, Ted Hoffstatter, Sharon Lewis Grace, Charlie Lewis, Deborah McFadden, Art Shulman

**GUESTS:** Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Ron Kashden

**SPEAKERS:** Josh Fedeli – field director Dan Malloy campaign

### MEETING OPENED

At 7:34 p.m. Chair John Kalamarides called the meeting to order. John recounted a story about a yo yo he had as a child, the moral of which was, “don’t be careless”. John said we need to be attentive and active in the upcoming campaigns, and show our support with donations, phone banking, letters to editor, etc.

**QUORUM** - noted at 7:42 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes from March 2010 meeting; second; unanimously carries.  
quorum

### GUEST SPEAKER

- **Josh Fedeli, Field Director Malloy Campaign, 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.** Dan announced Sunday that he was first candidate for Governor in state history to use Citizens Election Program. He had 4,180 donors driving the 250K donations necessary to make him eligible for \$8.5M for the primary and general election. “You are the change you make” is belief and theme campaign, and citizen financing is key to good government. 35 Town Committees endorsed Malloy. Fire, police, unions have endorsed. Building on coalition from 2006 that led to near miss in primary. Dan looking forward to convention. Expects that there will be a primary followed by general. Malloy served for 14 years as Mayor of Stamford; he has balanced budgets and brings experience as governing executive. Dan not the wealthiest candidate in race, but he has a wealth of knowledge and experience. Building statewide organization. In addition to record and strong grassroots campaign, the resources are there to win any race. Dan’s been there for Wilton, and he hopes he will have or support.

**John** opened the floor to questions:

- **Deb.** Does Dan have plans for party at the convention?
- **Sharon.** Lt. Gov. pick? Josh – Kevin Lembo has thrown his hat in ring, but Dan is not ready to announce when he is going to announce. Mary Glassman was his Lt. Gov candidate last time; she is running with Lamont this time.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

- **Art Shulman** – Art updated the group on current bank balance, costs of Trackside Spring fundraiser, and projected proceeds based upon actual receipts and commitments.

#### **CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Dick Blumenthal** coming to the Wilton DTC Spring Fundraiser.
- **Nancy Wyman** is having a fundraiser – would like to have 50 people there. Jim Ezzes is hosting.
- **Susan Bysiewicz** – won first round court case on her eligibility for Attorney General.
- **Registrar of Voters** – need to nominate **Carole Young-Kleinfeld** to run again. Caucus will be held May 18 at 7:30 Town Hall; following that meeting we will have the Campaign Committee meeting – Room A.
- **June 8** next DTC meeting – not June 1.
- **Volunteer of Month.** Paul Burnham.

#### **SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

- **Budget.** Ted Hoffstatter noted that the Budget approved by the Selectman was expected to be approved in Town-wide vote.
- **Re-usable Bags.** There was a booth at the Go Green festival and the Registrars surveyed attendees. 205 people voted; 198 voted to support riverwalk; 135 of them voted yes on plastic bag initiative. 55 voted no on plastic bags; most of these were Girl Scouts, who wanted the ordinance to focus on re-usable bags. Ted flagged that the initiative is focused on re-usable, but folks keep getting confused into thinking it is anti-plastic bags only; Kelly suggested renaming the ordinance “reusable bags” to clarify the scope and goals. Village Market uses 1M plastic a year. They estimate it would cost them 50K a year if switch to paper. Sharon suggested that the State of CT be enlisted to provide a tax credit to towns that adopt it.
- **Ted** thanked the DTC for re-electing him to State Central.

## CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

- Deborah McFadden noted that at the last meeting, the campaign committee drafted a **budget for the 2010** election season, covering phone bank facilities, literature and advertisements.
- **Fundraising plans** were discussed.
- Coordinating with Himes and Reeves campaigns.
  - **Mitch – Himes campaign** report. Starting to activate Democratic base with phone-banks to mobilize volunteers. Himes headquarters in Bridgeport opened; 30,000 vote margin in Bridgeport last time was key to the victory. Wilton well represented on Himes campaign, with Mitch writing the official blog, Kelly providing website technical and design support and Tom Dec serving as operations director.
  - **Sharon - Peggy Reeves nominating convention** – Sharon asked attendees to bring food and help set-up. Convention starts and should run until 9:00.
  - **Carol Ball** is event coordinator for Peggy, Jim, DTC.
- **Absentee ballots.** Sharon heading up. Calling young Democrats before they go to college. Ask if they want an absentee ballot. If so, they can update their school address and help ensure they get the ballot. Follow-up with a note.
- **Slate ads.** Looking if we can buy with New Caanan, Westport etc. to buy Acorn-online ads in bulk.
- **Other events?** Memorial Day? 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Halloween? Historically, we've done events then, but there is a lot going on.

## ONLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Newsletter** - Readership up by 50% over prior month; open rate over 35% of list.

## ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn, second. Adjournment at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Franklin  
Secretary