MINUTES

Wilton Democratic Town Committee
June 8, 2010, Wilton Town Hall

PRESENT: John Kalamarides, Tom Burgess, Paul Burnham, Kelly Franklin, Sharon Lewis Grace, Fred Herot, Ted Hoffstatter, Charlie Lewis, Ernie Loser, Dan Troph

GUESTS: Walter Briggs, Tom Dec, Ron Kashden, Peggy Reeves, Carole Young-Kleinfeld

SPEAKERS: Francesca Capodilupo, Anna Dunleep, John Hartwell

MEETING OPENED

At 7:32 p.m. Chair John Kalamarides called the meeting to order.

QUORUM – noted at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes from May 2010 meeting made and seconded; unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- John Kalamarides gave Treasurer's report based on Art Shulman's written submission. Spring fundraiser was successful, with 74 attendees. Insurance for the year paid. Current bank balance $2,085. Treasurers' report approved.

ADVISORY BOARD NOMINATION

- Citing his service as head of the Norwalk DTC and participation at this year's State Convention, Deb McFadden moved that Walter Briggs be nominated as a Wilton Democratic Town Committee Advisor. Sharon Lewis Grace seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Francesca Capodilupo**, Field Organizer for Lamont for the 4th District (Wilton and 5 other towns), spoke. Francesca is a recent college graduate who will be attending Fordham in fall for Masters in Political Science. Each congressional district has a field organizer and 8 organizers. Looking for house party hosts, volunteers to canvass, phone-banking events. Visit www.nedlamont.com to volunteer or learn more about Ned's background and his plans for the state.

- **Anna Duleep** running for seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives, representing West Norwalk; the seat is currently held by Republican Larry Cafero, who is Minority Leader. Anna was born and raised in Norwalk, and is a Harvard graduate. She taught math in a charter school, and now runs her own business at tutor. Anna was on Town Council in Norwalk. She is running

because Larry has been in office for 18 years, and done nothing for local schools. He doesn't reach out to or represent constituents. Ann encouraged constituents to take photos when and if they *ever* see Larry around town. She noted that he does seem to have ample time to spend with lobbyists. In fact, for his 2006 campaign, he raised $36,000 from lobbyists. Conversely, Anna is committed to participating in the Citizens Election program so she will not be beholden to anyone other than her constituents. She will be first Asian woman and first Indian of either gender elected to the State Assembly.

- **John Hartwell** is the Democratic nominee for the 26th senatorial district, challenging Republican Toni Boucher. The district encompasses Bethel, New Canaan, Redding, Ridgefield, Westport, and Wilton. Dave Kostek did video of acceptance speech, available on www.johnhartwell.com. Giving a brief recap, John reiterated that as we all know, Connecticut is facing serious challenges, and that we need responsible folks governing. John said that Democratic apathy has been overplayed and so has the tea-party (they are more vocal now, but they've always been there - 27% approved of Nixon as he left office). John noted that he is committed to participating in the Citizens Election program and has made good progress in raising the requisite small donor funds in the week since his nomination.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

- **Campaign Committee Report.** Deborah McFadden talked about campaign committee and structure this time of having liaisons to each campaign. Fred Herot is liaison for John Hartwell, Mitch Hirsch for Jim Himes, Sharon Grace Lewis for Peggy Reeves. Art Shulman has helped structure budget and the campaign committee is planning an advertising and promotion campaign which will kick off after primaries.

- **State Representative Peggy Reeves** campaign. Treasurer Paul Burnham reported on Peggy's campaign. She has qualified for Citizens Election program. Campaign director Sharon Lewis Grace thanked everyone for donating and supporting. Plans outlined for the campaign. As it has traditionally, Sharon requested that the Wilton DTC defray the projected $100 cost of absentee ballot mailing. Motion made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

  Peggy thanked everyone for the support at the convention, particularly Paul Burnham for his moving nominating speech and fund-raising. Although Peggy is still working night and day on constituent services, and going back into session to try an override Governor's vetoes (energy bill, committee to study sentencing guidelines, conveyance tax for towns), she and her team are gearing up for a vigorous campaign. Peggy noted that she loves her job, is good at it, committed to it despite the 16 hour days it requires, and intends to keep it.

- **Congressman Himes** campaign update provided by director of operations Thomas Dec and WDTC member Mitch Hirsch. Jim was visible in district during the Memorial Day recess. Phone-banking ongoing to active Dems. Next wave of calls to less frequent Dem voters, and canvassing

beginning. Outgrowing office, and need more space. Mitch is trying to schedule phone-banking sessions over the next week or two. Goal is to reach all 3,000 registered Dems in Wilton this month.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

- Carole Young-Kleinfeld provided the Registrar's report. New enrollment figures: 11,098 total voters as of June 8 (cleaned rolls of inactive voters from ancient past – they have 30 days to return a letter from secretary of state or they are inactive). Inactive voters can vote, but must show ID and indicate that they still live where they lived - if so, they can be made active on spot. Enrollments of current active voters are as follows: Democrats: 2,972; Republicans: 4,149; Unaffiliated: 3,960 other: 17. Carole noted that the office had been particularly busy this week with a number of Republican petition circulators gathering signatures to try and qualify for primary (most for 4th Congressional District, but some for Peter Schiff, who is challenging Linda McMahon). Also, in Wilton, there will be a Republican primary for Registrar of Voters.

- Democratic and Republican primaries will be held August 10th.

- Redistricting coming up.

EVENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Frivolity Bowl**, the annual softball game between town Democrats and Republicans will be held at the high school on July 4th. Contact David Borglum to sign-up.

- **Fall Fundraiser** - Barbara Massey-Bear is proposing fall fundraising event September 11. Our elected representatives are available then. Some people have concerns about that date (Tom, Mitch, Kelly expressed reservations). Paul moved that we hold it Sunday, September 12. John explained that political representatives do these events in a given region and if we move it to September 18, we will potentially have it conflict with other dates. Paul moved to reconsider the motion to hold it September 12, and instead hold it September 18th. Fred seconded. Approved unanimously.
    - NOTE: after discovering scheduling conflicts for the location on September 12, the officers decided in late June to hold the event on Saturday, September 25]

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Support for Wilton Commons** –The Republican Town Committee proposed joint letter of support. Motion made and seconded. Vote unanimous.

ONLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Regional initiatives.** Darien DTC indicated they admire our site Kelly will be helping with their new site. New Canaan website included a powerful series of articles by Dave Kostek asking moderate Republicans to consider whether in this tea-party era, the GOP has veered so far right that it had left them behind. Kelly reprinted one of the articles on WDTC site. Suggests more of this type of region DTC cross-over.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn, second. Adjournment at 9:35 p.m.