

MINUTES

Wilton Democratic Town Committee

August 3, 2010, Wilton Town Hall

PRESENT: Carol Ball, David Borglum, Paul Burnham, Tom Dec, Kelly Franklin, John Kalamarides, Fred Herot, Ted Hoffstatter, Charlie Lewis, Ernest Loser, Ernie Ricco, Art Shulman, Dan Troph

ADVISORS: Walter Briggs

GUESTS: John Hartwell, Ron Kashden, Carole Young Kleinfeld

SPEAKERS: Ned Lamont (Gubernatorial candidate), Mike Dunn (Malloy campaign organizer), Bill Brennan (Wilton First Selectman)

MEETING OPENED

At 7:33 p.m. Chair John Kalamarides called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes from July meeting, with one correction, made and seconded; unanimously carried.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

- **Ned Lamont (Gubernatorial candidate).** Ned spoke about Ted Kennedy Jr. endorsement and ad on TV. Said that CT's best resource is its well-educated workforce. University system is top notch, but need to maintain K-12 and close the achievement gap. Ned said the debate with Dan Malloy was substantive and civil. Democrats have 2 strong candidates, and we need to elect a Democratic Governor who is hands-on committed to promoting job growth.
 - John Kalamarides asked what Ned would do day one if elected. Ned replied that he would "call 5 business CEOs – 2 big, 3 small, and say you have a Governor that cares – what do you need to expand jobs?". John also thanked Ned for sending his two sons to play in the Frivolity Bowl.
- **Mike Dunn (Field Organizer for the Malloy campaign).** Invited folks to come to the local campaign headquarters and help make calls. Dan's campaign is example of public financing at its best; he's being outspent, but continually going up in the polls – debates, interviews, etc. Dan has a record of successful leadership; as Mayor of Stamford, Malloy reduced crime, implemented universal preschool, and attracted businesses. Mike said there had not been a Democratic Governor in his lifetime – and wants to change it. It isn't a money battle – it's about values.

- **John Hartwell (candidate for state senate 26th District)** – Qualifying for Citizens Election program – has met the financial threshold, but needs a few more signatures and \$5.00 donations to qualify for the 85K matching funds.
- **Himes Campaign update - Tom Dec.** Reported on Himes campaign. There was a phonebank at Kelly Franklin’s house on the day marking 100 days before elections. About half a dozen volunteers made 200 calls. Jim attended events in 17 towns (Ted Hoffstatter helped organize a lemonade stand at the Village Market). Town Halls coming up – New Canaan August 12th. Volunteer opportunities coming up. 75K calls made already – trying to get to 100K by next week. Expect to open office in Norwalk after primary.
- **Reeves Campaign update** – Sharon organized phone bank to young Democrats; sent out 103 absentee ballots. Peggy door-knocking; a lot of people away, but getting good reception from those who are home. Peggy went into special session last Friday on clean elections; Governor vetoed. Legislature going back in to try and override veto. Peggy’s website at voteforpeggy.com going up by Friday, August 6.
- **Democratic Headquarters.** John Kalamarides noted that a Wilton, Westport, Weston Democratic Headquarters will be opening soon (a recent newspaper article made the Ridgefield Headquarters is intended to be regional – it’s not).
- **Primary Election.** Carole Young Kleinfeld reviewed the deadlines for unaffiliated voters to affiliate; said sample ballot available on Town of Wilton website.

VETERANS MEMORIAL GREEN

- **First Selectman Bill Brennan** spoke about the Veterans Memorial Green initiative - a monument to Wilton veterans who perished in wars (any resident of Wilton who perished in war; 89 names, starting from Civil War). Carol and Bob Russell gathered the names; a committee of veterans weighted in on the design. Formal landscape plan done. Design of monument done on a *pro bono* basis. Raised \$58,000 so far – spent \$5,000; Need to raise \$65,000. Objective is to engage the entire community. Bill has spoken at schools Miller / Driscoll and Middlebrook; they donated \$750 (raised by students). Bill is speaking to all organizations in town (Rotary, Lions Club, RTC, etc. – trying to make sure everyone is engaged and supportive); also reaching out to local businesses. 260 individual contributions (pennies to over 4K). Project will be dedicated November 11th (Veterans Day).
 - Ted Hoffstatter moved that the Wilton Democratic Town Committee to donate \$500 toward the monument; Ernie Ricco seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Art Shulman** gave the Treasurer's report, citing current bank balance of \$2,500. John's Chairman's fundraising letter hitting this week. Starting early on BBQ tickets.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (John Kalamarides)

- **Volunteer of Month** is Mitch Hirsch. He won blog activist of the year from Netroots Nation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Paul Burnham noted that the Nominating Committee needs to meet on appointed positions before Nov. 30th. Seeking Democrats or unaffiliated. Mark Hetley stepping down from Police Commission; also anticipate a vacancy on the Fire Commission and 2 vacancies on Public Facilities. We also have had a vacancy on Inland / Wetlands for 6 months.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn, second. Adjournment at 9:11 p.m.