

## MINUTES

Wilton Democratic Town Committee  
November 7, 2010, Wilton Town Hall

### PRESENT

**Members:** Carol Ball, Paul Burnham, Richard Creeth, Kelly Franklin, Fred Herot, Louise Herot, Ted Hoffstatter, John Kalamarides, Barbara Massey Bear, Deb McFadden, Art Shulman, Hermon Telyan

**Advisors:** Walter Briggs

**Guests:** Ron Kashden, Diana Prince, Peggy Reeves, Carol Young Kleinfeld

### MEETING OPENED

At 7:36 p.m. Chair John Kalamarides called the meeting to order

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from October meeting, made and seconded; unanimously carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Art Shulman** gave the Treasurer's report, focusing on projections vs. budget for the election season. Overall, we spent \$1,200 more than initially budgeted, but had some better than anticipated donations, and closed out the election season with \$500 in the accounts. The major variance against the budget was the 2010 slate piece (originally, a postcard was planned rather than a brochure). There were 131 total donors in 2010, up 31 from prior year. Total 2010 donations were \$12,888, with an average contribution of \$98.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Membership.**
  - **Alicia Benzinger** resigned.
  - **Diana Prince** a 20 year resident of Wilton, asked to be considered for membership in the WDTC. She and her husband Kevin live on Pond Road. Carol, Diana, Deb went to see Michelle Obama in Stamford, and Deb and Diana carpooled to see President Obama and former President Clinton together. Diana described herself as a proud Democrat, who wants to get actively involved. Deb McFadden nominated Diana as a member of the Wilton Democratic Town Committee; Carol Ball seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - **Fred Herot** resigned. John Kalamarides offered a resolution recognizing Fred's many years of dedicated service, energy, passion, intelligence, letter writing, and years of

generous service. Moved, seconded, passed unanimously. Fred noted that WDTC esd invigorated, well led, participatory group. John also acknowledged Louise Herot's many years of support. Ted Hoffstatter, Paul Burnham, and Richard Creeth shared some recollections about working with the Herots on Democratic and Town civic activities.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

- **Paul Burnham** noted that most terms of service up November 30<sup>th</sup>. Paul has contacted incumbents to see if they want to continue. Nominating committee must have 50% members not DTC. Ross Tartell wants join. He and his wife have served for many years. Moved, seconded, approved unanimously.
- Paul described the credentials of the nominees the committee has identified, and moved that the WDTC accept the slate. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

### **STATE CENTRAL REPORT**

- **Ted Hoffstatter.** Ted noted that in a tough climate, which cost us a great legislator in Peggy Reeves, Democrats won the statewide races including Governor, Senator, and held the Congressional 4<sup>th</sup> District. Coordinating across the campaigns helped us get out the vote, and getting our numbers here contributed state-wide.

### **SELECTMAN REPORTS**

- **Richard Creeth.** Wilton Commons. Town meeting 7:30 November 30<sup>th</sup> Middlebrook School to renew the option on the lease for Wilton Commons (a proposed affordable congregant housing targeted at seniors). This is culmination of a 10 year effort, and the project has finally secured CHAFA financial support, with an additional to \$2 million in pledges from Wilton citizens. Need to renew the option on the lease for Wilton Commons. Also, on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 11:00 the Veteran's Memorial Green will be dedicated.
- **Ted Hoffstatter.** Reusable Bags initiative. Rather than pursuing a new ordinance at this time, the Selectmen decided to promote an educational campaign regarding re-usables via Go Green. If after 6-9 mos or a year, there is not a measurable change, we can reconsider. Sometimes change is incremental, and takes time (witness 10 years for Wilton Commons). Need to ask town counsel if we can mandate that non-reusables not be free. D.C. fee went to green initiatives; Seattle did something similar, but their charge went to retailers.

### **CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP**

- **State Representative Peggy Reeves.** John Kalamarides paid tribute to Peggy's service, noting that Wilton had in her both a great State Representative, and a strong voice in the legislature. We all worked hard to get her re-elected, and it is a real loss for Wilton that we weren't able to overcome the climate. Peggy thanked everyone for all their hard work, and received a prolonged standing ovation. Peggy noted that in 2008, she won Wilton by 1 vote in an Obama

landslide; this year, the climate was such that it was impossible to repeat that victory. Peggy was honored to serve, and her biggest regret is that she won't have the opportunity to work on energy reform, which has a great chance of being enacted since CT now has both a Democratic legislature and Governor.

- **Registrar's Report.** Carol Young Kleinfeld thanked all the volunteers who worked on election day, and noted that there was 68% turn-out (down just 1 point from the last mid-term election, when the Lamont / Lieberman race drove high voter turn-out.
- **Finance Chair's Report.** John Kalamarides commended Deb McFadden for all her work. Deb noted that the campaign committee is really upping their game; there was a step forward with last year's Board of Finance race, and this year, with the print pieces, events, advertising, and web presence, things were cranked up another notch. People are taking notice, and Deb and the team received positive feedback from voters. With an eye toward the future, Deb took the group's temperature on potential candidates for 2011 and 2012.
- **Events Report.**
  - **Planning for 2011.** Barabara Massey Bear made a motion to schedule an April 30 fundraising breakfast at Trackside, and a Saturday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> BBQ at Merwin Meadows. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.
  - **Considering annual dinner** for Democrats in January, where we would present an award for the Outstanding Wilton Democrat. Potluck, donations. Another option under consideration is **valentines for volunteers**.
  - **Reusable Bags.** Barabara has priced out branded re-usable bags like those created by the New Canaan Democratic Town Committee. Cost would be \$3.99 per bag for washable canvas; could send to newly-registered Democrats, or perhaps sell at Go Green festival. Art noted that since it is right after election season, the kitty is low; in light of that, Kelly asked we table the discussion until the next meeting. John agreed.

## ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn, second. Adjournment at 9:20 p.m.