

January 17, 2023, Charlton Democratic Town Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: (L=Library, Z=Zoom)

Henry Weiland (L), Pat Stockwell (Z), Kathleen Walker (L), Mike Lally (L), Jeanne Costello (L), Peg O'Connor (L), Gerri Burke Wright (Z)

7:20 P.M. at Charlton Public Library Community Reading Room

Meeting Objective: Discuss May Town Election candidates and the sourcing of candidates we will support.

Discussion:

- I. Roll call of officers, and members, sign-in sheets, and announcement of quorum
 - Henry called the meeting to order. A sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.
 - Quorum met with 6
- II. Reading the minutes of the previous meeting
 - Henry asked if everyone had read December 2022 meeting minutes, and all replied yes.
 - A motion was made to accept
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - Treasurer Kathleen brought the appropriate bank statement to be filed and confirmed annual financial statement report to the state committee is done
- IV. Reports of officers and committees
 - A. Henry
 - Henry continues to meet and network with other area chairs. He met with the Monson chair, Karen Nothe Valley, and Dylan Clarke of Barre.
 - Henry spoke with Aisling Keane, the state democratic blueprint manager. She indicated that the State party office is willing to help find candidates to run for state seats in our area. Specifically, State Senator and State Representatives. Potential finances will be discussed later on.
 - Jasmine Rivas of Southbridge is also interested in getting a candidate to run for State Rep. There is a discussion about organizing the local chairs (Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, and Spencer) to work on this.
 - Henry will keep everyone updated about continued progress.
 - The Stonebridge Press is open to us having a monthly column.
 - B. Pat
 - Pat went to the collaborative meeting where they discussed similar issues to our discussions, such as replacing the State Senator with a Democrat. This will require volunteers.
 - This sub-committee to unseat Senator Fattman was formed by Maria Thomson and will continue to add members from various DTCs across the district

- One of the volunteer projects is filling out postcards for targeted voters once a candidate is prepared to run.
- At the meeting, climate change was discussed, but with an emphasis on having an expert presentation on the impact climate change is having now and in the future in South Central Massachusetts.
- Pat stated she talked to the town clerk, Karen LaCroix, about town election data on the town's webpage.
- Pat is speaking to locals about running for the Charlton Board of Selectmen. This began a lengthy discussion of potential candidates, the time constraints as to when nomination papers need to be submitted etc.

C. Kathleen

- Kathleen is willing to share her voter contact information from when she ran for office.

D. Lisa

- Lisa is in contact with the Grange about a potential meeting place. Nothing to confirm at this point.
- Henry is looking at the Library's history room for available meeting times.

E. Anya

- Anya could not attend this evening, but she sent Henry an update on her work.
- Anya is working on VoteBuilder and a link tree to the CDTC page.
- The CDTC Facebook account is a business account, thus, it will not allow her to direct messages from it. She will continue working on it, trying Messenger and some other options.
- Trying to find Facebook accounts on those on VoteBuilder is not an easy task, unfortunately.
- Pat is reaching out via her personal Facebook account and identifying herself as the Vice Chair of the CDTC, but she is not gathering many responses
- Gerri asked if other social media platforms might be options, such as Instagram. Finding the tools to reach younger people who are either not registered to vote or unenrolled is tough.
- Henry congratulated her on all the work she has done to date.

V. Reading of communication addressed to committee.

- No new communications to read.

VI. Unfinished Business

- By-laws discussion and vote
 - Henry thanked Pat, Jeanne, and Lisa.

- A motion to review and discuss by-laws and vote on them was made by Kathleen and seconded by Pat.
- Kathleen questioned what differences were made between the State suggested bylaws and what the committee developed.
- Lisa and Pat pointed out some differences.
 - We made a social media officer in charge of the Facebook and future mediums
 - Seven members can call for a meeting without the chair
 - We will have 10 voting members due to the size of our committee.
 - Members cannot be kicked off the committee for not paying their dues
 - Donations will be carefully tracked and recorded
 - Email agenda 7 days in advance to the committee and 5 days in advance to the town.
 - We kept language from state by-laws regarding removing local members if they support issues/candidates the committee does not endorse, and remaining on the committee if that person has a “deeply held belief” as a reason for their support.
- Henry suggested we combine the Outreach and Affirmative Action positions into one. This was seconded and voted unanimously.
- T-Shirts: Jeanne had an image of the T-Shirt she is proposing. She will see about getting blue T-shirts and how much getting the 3 color town seal would cost. It would be best to get the T-Shirts produced by a local company, such as the Center for Hope in Southbridge. Hopefully, these will be ready for the Earth Day table.

VII. New Business

- Board of Selectmen. A Charlton Board of Health member, Pete Lancette, is running for a Board of Selectmen seat. Discussion ensued.
- Pat suggested holding a food drive in combination with the introduction of the Candidate who the CDTC supports. Kathleen suggested she talk to Darlene at CHIP-IN. Pat will check with Darlene and bring it to the February meeting. Henry asked that Pat chair a sub-committee for the food drive.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm