

	Groton Democratic Town Committee Meeting Thursday, August 23, 2023	Thrive 55 Center Groton, CT 06340 7:00 PM
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I.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

Natalie Billing, Doris Pulaski, Janice Kimball, Matthew Shulman, Bruce Jones, John Wirzbicki, Mary Von Dorster, Meredith Key, Carole McCarthy, Roscoe Merritt, Paul Duarte, Liz Duarte, Jill Rusk, Bev Washington, Alex Koumanelis, Al Fritzsche, Rachael Franco, Mary Ellen Furlong, Portia Bordelon, Ian Thomas, Edward Jacome, Katrina Fitzgerald, Juliette Parker, and Gary Welles, Bunny Furlong.

The following guests were present:

Gen Cerf, Robb Meade, Paul Fox.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Natalie Billing. Natalie introduced Robb Meade to the group. He is a candidate for Board of Education, replacing Dr. William Horgan who had to withdraw due to changes in his work schedule. She also introduced Paul Fox, who is a candidate for RTM, District 6, and was a former DTC Chair in Avon.

I. MINUTES

Janice Kimball made a motion to accept the July 20, 2023, minutes. The motion was seconded by Mary Von Dorster. The motion was approved unanimously

I. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Wirzbicki reported on the GDTC's fund balance. Donations are needed to fund all the campaign activities we'd like to do. Please continue to donate. Send checks to John Wirzbicki, 355 Brook St., Groton. Or go on line to www.grotondems.org to donate.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT/Committee Discussion/Campaign Update

- Lawn signs have been ordered. Wires for the lawn signs have arrived. Members are all asked to put up a few lawn signs for candidates of their choice, and to ask friends and family to also.
- We still have no headquarters at this time. We do have an official phone number in lieu of a headquarters phone which is listed on walkcards and mailers. We're adapting/preparing/planning to operate without a HQ.
- A walkcard for Council and Board of Education candidates is ready to go. RTM candidates can make their own walkcards, if they desire, after talking to the Chair about campaign finance requirements to keep them legal. Campaign is going well so far.
- Bev Herbert has replaced Deb Patrick as an RTM candidate for District 3. Chair explained that as candidates withdraw, she speaks with Vice chair and others to find substitute candidates. Bylaws authorize Chair to name replacements. This is time sensitive, has to be done quickly.
- Rachel Franco has replaced Gen Cerf as an RTM candidate for District 6.
- A Groton Independent's party has been formed and has defined a slate for the coming election of Town Council /BOE candidates.
- A fundraiser picnic will be held at Sutton Park, September 4, 2023, from 4 -6 p.m. Candidates will be present, as will Attorney General William Tong. Mary Von Dorster, Chair of Fundraising spoke about the picnic.
- Questions were asked about how having three parties in the election this year will affect how majority/minority board positions will be allocated.
- There will be an election for GDTC Secretary at the next meeting. Doris Pulaski has volunteered to serve if nominated and elected.
- Dan has resigned as Nom Comm Chair. Natalie will talk to people about identifying a new Chair. Bylaws authorize DTC Chair to name committee Chairs.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS' REPORT

- A school climate survey was done. The Mentor program is regrowing. Mentors are needed if anyone wants to volunteer to mentor a child.
- The principal at Fitch Senior High School resigned. A nationwide search is underway for a replacement. The assistant superintendent of schools will fill the position temporarily.
- Some of the COVID money will be used to hire social workers.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, at Thrive 55 at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made to adjourn by Edward Jacome, seconded by Mary Von Dorster. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.