

**Minutes: Groton Democratic Town Committee (GDTC)**  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 5-6 pm, Thrive 55/Senior Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll Call:

Natalie Billing, Bruce Jones, Matthew Shulman, John Wirzbicki, Mary Von Dorster, Margie Gookins, Dana Semeraro, Rita Schmidt, Cutter Oliver, Ian Thomas, Carole McCarthy, Doris Pulaski, James Hutson, Richard Dixon, Joe Baril, Jeanne Rogers, David McBride, David Hume, Rachael Franco, Liz Duarte, Joe de la Cruz, Tammy de la Cruz, Autumn Hanscom, Al Fritsche, Marabeth Clapp, Aundre Baumgardner, Kayla Reasco, Katrina Fitzgerald, Andrew Parrella, Jackie Massett, Christy McElroy, Gary Welles, Lisa Johannssen, Lisa Thomasco, and Patrice Granatosky. Guest: Anne Marie Foster.

Natalie explained that our meeting had to be moved to this earlier time to accommodate the Town Council's Public Hearing on the budget at 6 pm. By law, this meeting to elect our officers and endorse delegates to Conventions has to happen in a narrow window of time so tonight was the only possible night. She thanks everyone for changing their schedules to attend.

2. The following were candidates for officers were nominated for a two year term in office by Mary Von Dorster. Jackie Massett seconded the motion:

Natalie Billing, Chair GDTC  
Dan Gaiewski, Vice Chair GDTC  
Doris Pulaski, Secretary GDTC  
John Wirzbicki, Treasurer GDTC

No others were nominated from the floor. The slate passed unanimously.

3. Lists are now available of the Delegates assigned to Conventions. If you are assigned to a Convention and are unable to attend, you may assign a proxy, or call Natalie Billing to find a proxy. Any registered Democrat who resides in Groton, CT, is eligible. People assigned as alternates may attend, but may not be allowed on the floor and cannot vote. The slates for the State Convention, for the Convention for Representative Joe Courtney, and the Convention for State Senate were moved as one group. A motion to vote for the slates for those conventions was made by Joe de la Cruz, seconded by Joe Baril. The slates passed unanimously.

4. The slate of Delegates for the conventions for Aundre Baumgardner and Christine Conley were then offered. GDTC members can only vote for delegates to the convention of the State Representative who represents their particular state district. Also, motions to accept the list of delegates for a particular State District may only be made by residents of that district.

A motion was made to accept the slate of delegates to the Convention for 40th District, Christine Conley, Representative, by Christy McElroy, seconded by Richard Dixon. Only GDTC members from districts 3, 4, and 5 were eligible to vote. The motion passed unanimously.

5. A motion was made to accept the slate of delegates to the Convention for 41st District, Aundre Baumgardner, Representative, by Doris Pulaski, seconded by Patrice Granatosky. Only GDTC members from districts 1, 2, 6, and 7 were eligible to vote. The motion passed unanimously.

6. A motion was made by Mary Von Dorster to accept the minutes of the GDTC February 28, 2024, seconded by Jackie Massett. The motion passed unanimously.

7. John Wirzbicki gave the Treasurer's Report. The GDTC currently has \$4, 636.61.

A request was made for members to make donations to the GDTC during the meeting. Sheets of paper with the QR code for the GDTC 's Anedot site were provided to facilitate donations.

8. Liz Duarte, for the Nominating Committee recommended that Anna Marie Trusky be recommended to serve on the new Performing Arts Committee. She reviewed Ms. Trusky's resume, and explained about this new committee. A motion to recommend Anna Marie Trusky was made by Rita Schmidt, seconded by Jackie Massett. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Matthew Shulman gave the report for the Board of Education, focusing on budget pressures. The Town Council's budget Public Hearing was scheduled to follow the GDTC meeting. GDTC members were urged to attend.

No further reports were made to save time, considering the challenging nature of this year's budget, to be sure members would be able to attend the whole BOE budget meeting.

10. Jeanne Rogers, Registrar of Voters, reminded us that there will be early voting for the Presidential Primary at Fitch Middle School, on Thursday, March 28, 2024, and Saturday, March 30, 2024.

11. There was a fund raiser for Representative Joe Courtney at the Bark and Barley. Joe de la Cruz went to the event and reported on it.

Drag Queen Bingo was suggested as a possible fundraiser as other groups had raised as much as \$20,000 at such events.

12. The next regularly scheduled GDTC (Groton Democratic Town Committee) meeting will be Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center (Thrive 55+), 102 Newtown Road, Groton.

A motion to adjourn was made by Liz Duarte, seconded by Mary Von Dorster. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.