

## **Minutes, Groton Democratic Town Committee (GDTC)**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 7-8 pm, Thrive 55/Senior Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Natalie Billing.

Roll call of Members: Natalie Billing, Doris Pulaski, Mary Von Dorster, John Wirzbicki, Dan Gaiewski, Janice Kimball, Joseph Baril, Juliette Parker, Jackie Massett, Gary Welles, Nikki Neifeld, Roscoe Merritt, Portia Bordelon, Ian Thomas, Jill Rusk, Sue Hainline, David Hume. Lisa Johansson, Richard Dixon, Al Fritzsche, Carole McCarthy, and Marabeth Clapp. There was one guest, Anne Marie Foster.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the May Meeting: A motion was made by Jackie Massett to approve the minutes of the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Gaiewski. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report by John Wirzbicki: The current balance in the treasury is \$5,404.11. QR codes are available to donate to Andrew Parrella's campaign for State Senate, and to donate to the GDTC. While we have enough funds to rent an HQ, the cost for rent and utilities will deplete the treasury. Members are urged to make donations.

4. Chair Report by Natalie Billing:

District 1 has an RTM vacancy. Nikki Neifeld will be asked to serve. If the vacancy is not filled, Janice Kimball has offered to text to a list of people that might consider serving.

District 5: David Hume has agreed to take over the seat left vacant when Mike Whitney joined the Board of Education. David Hume's name will be forwarded to the Town Clerk as Mike Whitney's replacement.

Two individuals called Natalie Billing and asked to become involved in the campaign, Sky Farley and Andre Wagner, Chris Murphy's campaign coordinator.

Chris Murphy will be walking in the Fourth of July parade in Willimantic. The parade route is about one mile long. People who would like to walk with Chris are encouraged to go. Assemble at 10 a.m. The walk will last from 11:00 to 12:00.

5. Headquarters: The main task for the next month is to find a headquarters. Dan Gaiewski and Natalie Billing will be leading the search. If anyone sees a property for rent that might work as a headquarters, please send a photo to Natalie or Dan.

6. A Picnic fundraiser will be held June 30 at Sutton Park from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Guests will be Andrew Parrella and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz. There will be food, fun, and music by Atul. If you would like, bring a dish to share. Don't forget to donate to Andrew Parrella, our candidate for the 18th State Senate district, running against Heather Somers. Also donate to the GDTC.

7. State Representatives' Report- Chris Conley's father-in-law was in the ICU, so she could not come. Aundre Baumgardner was at another meeting. Consequently, there was no State Representatives' report.

8. Nominating Committee Report: Liz Duarte/Bev Washington -There were no applications for Authorities, Boards, or Committees this month.

9. Mayor / Council Report: Mayor Rachael Franco was not present, so no report was given.

10. Board of Education Report: Vice Chair Bev Washington was not present, so no report was given.

11. The next meeting will be on July 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Thrive 55. Andre Wagner, Chris Murphy's campaign coordinator will attend to talk to us

12. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Jackie Massett, seconded by Mary Von Dorster. The motion passed unanimously.