



Chester Democratic Town Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 — 7 pm at Chester Town Hall and via Microsoft Teams

While awaiting a quorum Chairman Erik Anderson invited guest Jimmy Tickey, vice chair of Connecticut Democrats, to address the committee at 7:01 pm. Jimmy told of his activity in Democratic politics, including the challenges of being a Democrat in a heavily Republican town like Shelton.

After Jimmy Tickey's discussion, EA called the meeting to order at 7:29.

Secretary Bob Lee noted that we had a quorum. In attendance were members Erik Anderson, Linda Carlson, Roseann Ventimiglia, Bob Lee, David Fitzgibbons, Lorraine Connelly, John Connelly, Ed Meehan, Susanne Spellacy, Michael Price, Cathleen Cahill (Teams); also, guests Deborah Vilcheck, Amber Forrest (Teams), Emelia DeMusis (Teams), Patricia Bandzes (Teams)

[Adoption of August 8 minutes](#)

Motion by Michael Price to adopt the minutes; Roseann Ventimiglia seconded. In discussion some minor corrections were noted — a grammatical issue and the categorization of Deb Vilcheck as a member instead of a guest. Of greater issue is confusion over the motion by Lori Ann Clymas, under new business, to allocate \$1200 for campaign signs and wall cards. **Erik Anderson moved to table pending review of the meeting recording. Linda Carlson seconded. Motion to table passed, and the item will be taken up at the October 3 meeting.**

[Treasurer's Report \[Roseann Ventimiglia\]](#)

The CDTC treasury balance as of the August meeting was \$4661.24. Total expenditures were \$318.02, and total donations were \$603. Balance prior to the meeting is \$4946.22.

[Chairman's Report \[Erik Anderson\]](#)

The recent Chester Fair had a fantastic turnout. Lorraine Connelly wrote a fantastic op-ed article about a conversation with a young man, a UConn student and son of Egyptian immigrants. He had stopped by the CDTC booth Friday night to ask Cindy Lignar, Bob Lee, John Connelly, and Lorraine herself what the difference was between Democrats and Republicans, and he remained for at least 45 minutes to discuss political and social issues.

The Essex DTC will hold a fundraiser September 13 at Surfridge brewpub, from 5 to 6:30 pm. \$35 per person. Chester Democrats are encouraged to support our compatriots in Essex.

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz has indicated that she will attend the CDTC October 22 fundraiser.

Connecticut Democrats have developed a \$20 million fund for the next election.

Reports of Standing Committees

Events and Fundraising [Linda Carlson]

The subcommittee met and chose Linda Carlson to facilitate. Cathleen Cahill volunteered to take notes. Everyone must attend the October 22 fundraiser; four years ago the event was standing room only! Silent auction items will be bundled. Invite your friends and neighbors. Considering having a tent outside for overflow or people who want to be outside. Erik Anderson urged the subcomm to work our networks for a tent. Ed Meehan questioned having a tent; he'd rather spend the money on campaigning.

Candidate Search [David Fitzgibbons]

Candidate search has transitioned to campaign mode. Urges Cindy Lignar to debate her opponent. By the end of September we should have a campaign committee in place.

Get Out the Vote []

Erik Anderson Cindy Lignar had written down the DTC approved allocation as \$1750. Her campaign has spent \$170.16 on walk cards; we owe James Baker \$300 for graphic design. Lawn signs at \$1948 were more expensive than anticipated. She is unsure whether t-shirts are funded from the DTC. They could be given out for donations. The total cost of the 2023 campaign is expected to be about \$5000.

Motion by Michael Price to approve \$2469 to cover the walk cards, lawn signs, and graphic design; second by Lorraine Connelly. Motion passed.

Motion by David Fitzgibbons to authorize \$500 to \$750 for 50 campaign t-shirts; second by Linda Carlson. Motion by Bob Lee to table pending further consideration; second by Ed Meehan. Motion to table passed.

Cindy Lignar, candidate for first selectman, and Pat Bandzes, candidate for selectman, were highly visible at the Chester Fair and the Farmers Market and will be at the Lobster Fest, the Essex DTC fundraiser, etc. They will begin door knocking. We need people to write letters to the editor, post on Facebook. The web site needs updating. Bios are in the works.

Justin Kronholm will host a fundraiser. Pat Bandzes said that people have asked Cindy for t-shirts. She also reported that Barker was the cheapest for printing signs.

Erik Anderson said that Lori Ann Clymas estimated \$5 to 6 thousand for the entire municipal campaign., so let's get people to our fundraiser. Ed Meehan said tat another expense will be absentee ballot mailings, about \$300 – \$400.

Publicity [Lori Ann Clymas]

Social Media and Web Site []

Erik Anderson said there has been a technical issue in updating the CDTC web site. Amber Forrest reported that the issue has been resolved.

Legislative Report []

State Rep. Christine Palm will receive an Environmental Achievement Award from the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters on October 3.

Board of Selectmen Report []

Erik Anderson reported that the “Concerned Citizens of Chester” used postcards that looked like they were from the town. Their meeting on September 7 is not a town-sanctioned function. Ed Meehan said the CCoC meeting on the 7th is at the Meeting House, while the actual Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on the 14th is at the Chester Elementary School.

Ed Meehan also reported that the town is looking at leasing space at the town garage for a cell phone tower.

DWA Report [Roseann Ventimiglia]

The DWA had a successful Deep River flea market on August 15. They will host Attorney General William Tong at the Old Saybrook Pavilion in September to address recent Supreme Court decisions on women’s reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, affirmative action, and state and national efforts to curb gun violence.

National Issues

Erik Anderson: Trump faces yet more indictments and legal woes.

New Business

Motion by Michael Price to buy new posters for fundraiser; second by Susanne Spellacy. Passed.

Adjourn (motion required — non-debatable)

Motion by Michael Price; second by John Connelly. Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.