



Chester Democratic Town Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 — 7 pm at Chester Town Hall and via Zoom

Call to Order	Chairman Erik Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
Roll Call Attendance	Members in attendance: Erik Anderson, Linda Carlson, Lorraine Connelly (Zoom), David Fitzgbbbons, Bob Lee, Cindy Lignar, Susanne Spellacy, Roseann Ventimiglia, Dan Wrightsman, Kurt Ziemann Guests in attendance: Amber Forrest (Zoom)
Adoption of September 5 Minutes (motion required)	Motion to adopt by Roseann Ventimiglia; second by Dan Wrightsman. Discussion: Linda Carlson pointed out that the idea of a tent at the October 22 social was ultimately rejected. With the proposed minutes thus corrected, the motion passed. Abstaining were Cindy Lignar, Kurt Ziemann, and Lori Ann Clymas.
Treasurer's Report [Roseann Ventimiglia]	The balance as of the September meeting was \$4946.22. Expenditures for graphic design, poster, and lawn signs totaled \$2346.73, while donations totaled \$1748.50. Ending balance at October 3 meeting is \$4347.99. Donations are needed.
Adoption of August 8 Minutes (tabled from September 5; motion required)	Adoption of the August 8 minutes, which was tabled at the September 5 meeting because of uncertainty about the amount of money authorized in a motion, was untabled in a motion by Lori Ann Clymas and seconded by Kurt Ziemann. Discussion: Lori Ann Clymas clarified that her motion was to authorize expenditures up to \$1750 for the 2023 campaign, and not \$1200 as recorded in the draft minutes. With the proposed minutes thus corrected, the motion passed.
Chairman's Report [Erik Anderson]	Erik Anderson reported that Cindy Lignar has been doing a fantastic job of door-to-door campaigning. Cindy and Pat Bandzes will publicize their campaign walk activities so others may join. Susanne Spellacy asked about weekday canvassing, with so much bad weather and with dusk coming earlier each day. CL: we start about 10:30 every day and go about two to three hours. There are many people who work from home. One woman was busy on the phone but was happy to take a card. Candidates will appear at Masonicare Chester Village. So many events are planned. Will be at Middlesex Chamber of Commerce for interview of first selectman candidates. Have a fundraiser for neighborhood, Justin Kronholm hosting, featuring AG William Tong. Created a flyer with barcode for chesterdems.org to facilitate donation. Coming to Cherry Hill on the 13 th . Major issues are the proposed affordable housing, local government transparency, charter commission (will strategize with Richard Strauss). EA: We have a laundry list of things to do in New Business. Have emailed candidates for donations but the response has been dismal. Susanne has been editing bios. Amber Forrest is building candidate bio page on web site. LAC is asking to letters to the editor. Lorraine Connelly offered to help. EA: We will need phone banking after our first mailer. LAC: Mailer will be a 6x9, going to Pages for printing and bulk mailing to all residences in town. First is Cindy and Pat, next will be all contested races, then a one with Cindy and Pat and contested, then a big tri-fold. Putting a small team together to work on this; can't have 25 people doing it.

LAC urged Erik to call all CDTC members to request that they phone bank, write LTE, work on Election Day, etc.

EA: We will need drivers for Election Day, for social, for meet and greets. We need unofficial checkers; we must submit names to registrar of voters. Vic Fetter says we need six actual poll workers such as official checkers; many of the usual people are on the ballot and cannot do it. Not all would be Democrats. We also need people under the CDTC tent on Election Day. EA asked what neighbor-to-neighbor cards are; LAC: they're just post cards.

EA: Peg Meehan will handle GOTV. CL: Peg has already mailed 150 absentee ballot applications. LAC: bring applications to Masonicare. EA: We also need to put up lawn signs. LAC: Phone calling is a good opportunity to find people willing to have signs.

Reports of Standing Committees

Events and Fundraising [Linda Carlson]

Linda Carlson sent out an email regarding the October 22 social/fundraiser. We need items for silent auction — bottle of wine, etc. We need value of each item. We also need members to plan what food to bring. People from other towns are interested in what food we will serve. Bring friends and neighbors. Four years ago we had standing room only.

LAC asked if we will have door prizes in addition to silent auction. LC said no, only silent auction. LAC: With door prizes, people will buy a lot of tickets who might not have enough to bid on silent auction items. LAC: Must decide which items would be silent auction and which would be door prizes.

Amber Forrest recommended using SignupGenius for the food signups.

Susan Bysiewicz should be there, and Norm Needleman, too. Other officials are being invited.

LC suggests E&F subcommittee to meet October 10 at the Meeting House.

EA wants to have a special CDTC meeting on October 18 at 7 pm, before the fundraiser.

EA: will print out fundraiser tickets.

Candidate Search [David Fitzgibbons]

EA: Justice of the Peace Whitey Wilson is reportedly retiring. Lorraine Connelly is interested in the position if he is a Democrat. LAC: Unaffiliated JPs are appointed by the town clerk; the DTC appoints Democrats and the RTC appoints Republicans.

Get Out the Vote [Peg Meehan]

EA: Covered already in Chairman's Report.

Publicity [Lori Ann Clymas]

The first press release, regarding Cindy Lignar's and Pat Bandzes's campaign and meetup schedule, was sent out. We will work on putting out a new one each week. Once we finish plans for the debate, we can send out a presser on that.

EA: Everyone may write LTE, but PR are from the committee. LAC: PR should be done from a small committee because there is little time to review by others. Susanne, Lori Ann, and Bob volunteer for the committee.

Social Media and Web Site [Cindy Lignar]

The CDTC web site needs to be updated but the work involves some technical expertise.

Motion by Linda Carlson to authorize paying up to \$300 to John Williams for web site assistance; second by Cindy Lignar. Passed.

CL: Thinking up stuff to put on Facebook.

Legislative Report

Linda Carlson reported that she and Dan Wrightsman attended the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters ceremony in Glastonbury where Christine Palm received their first Legislator of the Year award. Three other people were honored.

DWA Report
[Roseann Ventimiglia]

The DWA event on September 21 at the Meeting House featuring AG Willam Tong was very well attended. Christine Palm also was there and emphasized the need for us to show up and give testimony to support important bills.

National Issues

Skipped.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Lori Ann Clymas reported that we now have the ballot layout, so we can see which major races are contested: First selectman; selectman; board of finance and alternates; P&Z alternate. All other Democratic candidates will get in. LAC: have not yet talked to [P&Z Comm chair] Mike Sanders to see what Common Ground is doing. DF: Nothing; CG is not running anyone for board of education.

LAC: We will have four mailings; the cost will be about \$4000.

Motion by Lori Ann Clymas to authorize expenditure up to \$4000 for mailings; second by Cindy Lignar. Discussion: LAC said we will need a team of checkers to proofread the mailers before printing. **Passed.**

Motion by Lori Ann Clymas to authorize expenditure up to \$300 for postage for CDTC absentee ballot operations; second by Linda Carlson. Passed.

Motion by Lori Ann Clymas to authorize expenditure up to \$485 for a half-page advertisement in the Valley Courier on the contested races; second by Bob Lee. Passed.

Susanne Spellacy asked what the fundraising goal is for the social. RV: We'd like to make \$2000. LAC: Last year, even though the turnout was small we made \$1000.

Cindy Lignar announced that on Friday, September 29, the town of Chester received notice of a Silver Certification sustainability award from Sustainable CT.

Chairman Erik Anderson called a special CDTC meeting for Wednesday, October 18 at 7 pm.

Adjourn (motion required — non-debatable)

Motion by Bob Lee; second by Linda Carlson. Passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.
