

Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Marlborough, MA
Monthly Meeting April 10, 2021

Officers: Dan Caruso, Chair; Barbara Allen, Co-Chair; Alex Williamson, Co-Chair; Debbie Doucette, Secretary; George LaVenture, Treasurer; Rosalind Baker, Affirmative Action Chair

Attending Members: Dan Caruso, Barb Allen, Alex Williamson, Debbie Doucette, Pamela McNair, Laura Wagner, Danielle Gregoire, Joan Gregoire, Alice Wertheimer, Dave Doucette, Carmine Gentile, Teria Ellis, Babs Fenby, Samantha Perlman, Roz Baker, Elaine Chont, Diane Stevens and Barbara Shapiro

Non-Members: Christopher Lorant
Dhruba Sen, Activist

Guest Speaker: Kate Donaghue Dem State Committee.

Time meeting brought to order:

10:04 AM

April Minutes: Correction to March Minutes, add A. Williamson as present. His name was omitted in error.

Babs Fenby made a motion to accept March Minutes with correction. Barbara Allen 2nd the motion

Treasurer's Report:

Copy of Treasurer Report emailed to members prior to meeting. There is a projected balance of \$2255.34 as of 3/20/21. Barbara Allen to accept Treasurers Report, Babs Fenby 2nd the motion

Officer's / Committee Reports

Event Report: Pam McNair/Teria Ellis

Food Drive was a success. Written report sent out.

Membership Report: Barbara Allen

Next Membership meeting on April 24th at 10am. Researching who is and who is NOT on the MDCC membership list to get to our base members. A questionnaire will be sent out to all the ward chairs (Barb will handle ward 5-no chair at present). The ward chairs will call their members and use the questionnaire to find out each member's level of commitment and involvement to MDCC. Hopefully we can broaden our committees with new people. See Membership Report dated 3/20/21 emailed out with April agenda.

Communications: Doug Pizzi

Not present

Dan—Doug did a lot of work behind the scenes connecting with local newspaper reporters from the Community Advocate and other local newspapers to come to our food drive event. There was a positive story plus pictures written about the MDCC members volunteering. Doug will work with our Events Committee as our Public Relations person to announce future events plus have follow-up stories in the local papers to help us get MDCC recognized. Also work with the Membership Committee to create an MDCC brochure and a general relations campaign and to be more proactive to current events.

Barbara Allen - Our social media; Facebook, website, calendar and email all need to be decided who or what group controls what and who gets access.

Political Action: Alex Williamson

Next Meeting on April 18th at 3 pm. Alex has the current voter's list for Marlborough.

Dan- Will look into Vote Builder so we can have access to it.

By-Laws Committee: Marilyn Perry

No Report.

Dan- Will need to do some changes/updates to the current By-laws; Standing Committees etc

Babs Fenby Made Motion to accept committees' report. Dave Doucette 2nd the motion.

Legislation Round-Up

Carmine Gentile – State Representative 13th Middlesex District

House releasing budget documents this week (4/12)

Danielle Gregoire: State Rep, 14th Middlesex District

Bond Bill for \$400million to build new Veterans Hospital in Holyoke. Releasing House budget later this week (4/12).

Questions:

Barbara Allen – Any Committee Hearings scheduled on bills to be filed?

Danielle Gregoire – Bills have not yet been assigned to committees due to State Reps have not been assigned to committees.

Local Government Round-up

Samantha Perlman – City Councilor at Large

Public Hearing is scheduled on 4/22 at 6pm on new Fire Station in West Marlborough. Possible location is on Elm Street. Opportunity to get feedback from the public.

Laura Wagner – Ward 1 City Councilor

Public Hearing scheduled on 4/12 at 7pm for Mass General to speak to the public about their proposed expansion in Westborough. This is an informational hearing only.

Dave Doucette – Ward 2 City Councilor

McGee Farm Condos traffic light still ongoing. No construction will begin until situation with traffic light is settled. Mobile station on route 20 east will be getting a drive thru pick-up.

School Committee – Dan Caruso

All grades are scheduled back to school this month. The State Elementary and Secondary School Commissioner, Jeff Riley, has ordered Elementary grades K-5th back to school on April 5th and Middle Schools to be back on 4/28. High School students TBA. To Marlborough's credit our School Superintendent, Mike Bergeron, and his staff have worked tirelessly together on their own schedule of reopening the Marlborough schools.

The schools were on track to open around the same time. Elementary opened 4/5 Middle School and High School to open 4/27. First opening went well—no issues.

Old Business:

Budget:

Dan – Budget income comes from our members' annual dues and fundraisers. Our Dues calendar is from Jan 1 – Dec 31. A fundraiser will be developed later in the year with Diane Steven's assistance and the Events Committee.

Calendar :

Google Calendar has been set up for the MDCC organization. Thank you Sam! We need to give access of the calendar to all Officers, Ward Chairs and Committee Chairs to add

Mass Dems Organizing Hub:

Good source to speak with and support other Democrats in their projects or to get help in organizing your city committee. Making "thank you" phone calls to voters. Meets every Saturday afternoon thru May.

Misc:

Christopher Lorant:

Wendy Thomas is running for Democratic State Rep in Merrimack, NH.

Guest Speaker: Kate Donoghue

Substance Use Disorder

Kate was kind enough to share her personal story of her son, Brian Donoghue Simpson, who lost his life in March 2018 to drug overdose. Her purpose is to turn her grief around to good by lobbying for ending the stigma of people with substance use disorder by changing the language that is typically associated with them. Every addict is a person. A video she developed with Senator John Cronin's Chief of Staff was shown. Thank you Kate Donoghue for all your work.

Motion made by Babs Fenby to adjourn

Barbara Allen 2nd the motion

ADJOURNED: 11:17AM

Next Meeting May 8, 2021

**Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary
May 3, 2021**