

**Marlborough Democratic City Committee
Virtual Monthly Meeting, January 9, 2021
10:00 am**

ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89170683589?pwd=cjZselRYcXVCbGJKQXlab1U4clZpZz09>

Dial-in number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 891 7068 3589

Passcode: 284694

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call of Officers

Approval of November Minutes

Communications/Correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Report of Officers

Report of Committees

Legislative Update

Action Items

Inaugural Watch Party

MDCC Community Cupboard Food Drive

Calendar and Budget

By-Law Clean Up

2021 Action Plan

Membership

Political/Community Involvement

Structural Processes & Procedures

Election De-Briefing & Group Therapy

Next Meeting

Adjournment

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The MDCC is an elected political entity. In lieu of dues, members are asked to make an annual voluntary contribution in the amount of \$25.00 to fund the Committee's fundraising and political activities. Checks, payable to MDCC, may be mailed to Treasurer George LaVenture, 346 Brigham Street, Marlborough, MA 01752. Glaventure@Trinity-Inc.net. Contributions may also be made to "Marlborough Democratic City Committee" through ActBlue.com. WE CANNOT ACCEPT CASH.

Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Marlborough, MA
Monthly Meeting January 9 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, Doug Pizzi, Laura Wagner, Ed Pastor, Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Lee Hettinger, Danielle Gregoire, Roz Baker, Kara Le Treize, Tristan Niedzielski, Keith St. John, Christine St. John, Alice Werthheimer, Kathleen O'Connor, Joan Gregoire, Bob Gregoire, Donna Scalcione, Dave Doucette, Diane Stevens, Joan Cusson, Carmine Gentile, Teria Ellis, Babs Fenby, Samantha Perlman, Christopher Lorant, Rick Guzzi, Kate Donaghue, Jamie Eldridge

Time meeting brought to order:

10:10 AM

Treasurer's Report:

A \$250 donation from MDCC bank account was sent to the two Georgia Democratic candidates for US senators, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. The money was evenly split in two checks of \$125 each.

Officer Reports:

Membership: Barbara Allen

No new information to report

Communications: Doug Pizzi

No new information to report.

By-Laws Committee: Marilyn Perry

No Report

Political Action: Alex Williamson

No report

Membership/Political Action Committee Meeting- 12/19/20

Barbara Allen emailed summary of meeting. Topics Discussed:

Food Drive-1/19/2021; 9AM-Noon, Collect Food 01/18/21. Drop off at B. Allen's house. The morning of 1/19/21 volunteers bring the collected food to the Marlborough Cupboard. Be involved in other social community efforts to broaden our visibility in our city.

Outreach- Develop an outreach for the youth members, 17 & 18 year olds.

Ward 5- Develop Ward 5 into a viable, active ward. Currently there is no chair.

Other Democratic Town Committees: Joint Actions/Support with other Democratic Town Committees. Develops cross pollination of ideas.

Legislation Round-Up

Jamie Eldridge-State Senator

The State Senate ended its final 2020 session on January 6, 2021, 4:30 am. Major legislation was passed on the Clean Energy Bill.

- By 2050 MA is committed to net zero limit on greenhouse gas emissions. Affordable solar panels will be available for low-income housing and renters.
- Racial equity and police reform.
- A \$626M Economic Development Bill passed. Grants will be available for small businesses. Sealing the court's records of people with "No-fault eviction" trials and minors to prevent discrimination in housing search.
- Transportation Bond Bill for various projects in the state.
- In Supplemental Budget provided \$200K to Marlborough's Boys & Girls Club for repairs
- \$100K to Marlborough's Food Cupboard to replace refrigeration and flooring and shelves.
- Plus \$5million direct finance assistance to immigrants who cannot receive federal assistance because they are undocumented or unemployed—weren't included in the stimulus payouts.

Ideas on bills are due to the senate by 02/19/21

Dave Doucette – Mass Save has a stipulation that if you are already receiving fuel assistance from the utility company then you are not allowed to participate in Mass Save's program.

Danielle Gregoire: State Rep, 14th Middlesex District

To continue with the major legislation bills that were passed----

The Economic Development bill also included:

- \$200K for train commuter shuttles
- \$300K for the Westborough train station. Estimated it will be 10 yrs before the state gets back to before covid transportation.
- Tele-health Bill passed.

- Bill to study changing the State Flag & Seal

Discussion has been going back and forth on the closure of the testing site in Best Western Hotel located in West Marlborough. The state was financing the site until November 2020 then Marlborough took over financing it to keep it open temporarily— but now people need to pay out of pocket for the testing in order to keep the site open. Danielle states that the site needs to stay open and believes there is a plan in the works. As of now people can go to Framingham or the Sports Center in Marlborough. At the Sports Center you have to wait in line outside. A car is needed to reach both sites.

The Governor has not been communicating to the legislators. Creates frustration and confusion.

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger- Comment on testing. There is a plan in the works for money from state for pool testing in Marlborough schools.

Roz Baker – Framingham is out of control when it comes to covid testing. City Health Director has resigned. Marlborough testing sites must stay open, especially the testing site off of rte 495. There are still a lot of people not getting tested. Mostly single moms who can't bring their small kids with them, people alone and have no family to help and people without cars. Therefore there are people out shopping at grocery stores most likely positive with covid.

Carmine Gentile – State Representative 13th Middlesex District

Continuing on the major legislation passed at end of session.

- \$30 million for food assistance of which \$1.2 million to Project Bread.
- \$13 million to the Health Incentive program
- Tele-Health was made as a permanent service
- Expanded scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners.
- Framingham had 2 testing sites max of 1400people/day then went down to 1000 people a day—also went down to 1 testing site.
- Contact Tracing—large percentage of people who have been contacted thru contract tracing have not responded.
- Framingham had reached out to State for additional help in contact tracing and received no response. Framingham became overwhelmed with the number of people to trace.
- New Horizon residents will be vaccinated next week January 14th.

Barbara Allen: Volunteered to help with contact tracing thru Partners in Health and did not hear back. Also called Worcester for volunteer opportunities. Never heard back from her calls. Carmine is going to notify the Covid Command Center to let them know there are volunteers available but have not received any replies to their phone calls.

Dave Doucette: comment about communities having a problem storing Moderna vaccine because of the storing freezer facilities having to meet the cold requirements of -40 to -60 degrees. Also shuttle buses to the train in Southborough Station should be coordinated with the train schedule, especially with the first train in the morning mon-fri.

Kara LaTrieze: There was a company in Marlborough, Volaratus Inc.(?), that has gone out of business but that they had 2 industrial freezers. Something to research.

Doug Pizzi: Thanked the legislators for conservation bill passed in the House.

Danielle Gregoire: She will meet with Meredith Harris head of the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation about coordinating the bus shuttle and train schedule and speak with the Mayor about the freezers to maintain the Moderna vaccine.

Local Government Round-up

Dave Doucette: Ward 2 City Councilor

Attended City Council Urban Affairs meeting concerning the McGee Horse Farm property. A Traffic Study was completed. A traffic light is needed at the entrance as well as the exit. There will be no approval to go ahead with housing development unless there is a traffic light in place. Developers are willing to pay for the light but the DOT says it's not needed.

Samantha Perlman – City Councilor at Large

The Traffic Study doesn't take into account the current housing development across from the new development and the traffic concerns in and out of these developments. Michael Ossing and Kathleen Robie were re-elected President and Vice President of the City Council.

Laura Wagner; Ward 1 City Councilor

Rte 20 in Marlborough scheduled for future road construction. Lab space within Marlborough companies are available for use of vaccine storage.

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger: Marlborough School Committee

Covid-19 is creeping into the schools. Some classes have been quarantined since Christmas Break. Families travelled—took risks
Grant money for Rapid Testing for students or staff with symptoms. Need to add to protocol.

Laura Wagner: Is MCAST testing going forward?

Michelle Response: Governor Baker is pushing to have the MCAST testing. The Marlborough students are being tested regularly, so we are not behind in testing.

Other Misc. Topics

Food Drive: Pam McNair & Kathleen O'Connor, Marlborough Community Cupboard Food Pantry

Collect Food 1/18/21 at Barbara Allen's garage between 9am – 12 noon.

Bring Food to Community Cupboard 1/19/21

Barbara Allen requested a press release draft to be written up and emailed to her. Doug Pizzi volunteered. The following people had volunteered to help organize it. Pam McNair, Kathleen O'Connor, Alex Williamson, Roz Baker. Please text Barbara if you are interested.

Inaugural Watch Party ?

Motion to Adjourn – Barbara Allen
2nd the Motion -- Kathleen O'Connor

NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 13, 2021

Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary
February 8, 2021