

MINUTES OF DANVERS DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2024 – Hybrid

Present: Lou Bernazzani, Maria Bernazzani, Phil Bolduc, Liz Brennan, Joe Caiazzo, Beatrice Clark, Mary Condon, Julie Curtis, Louis George, Marilyn Hazel, Elaine Hegan, Jan Hegan, Charlotte Jordan, Sally Kerans, Carla Meagher, Tom Meagher

Guests: Alex Bausch, Joe Buttner, Mary Henry, Pat Rahn

Call to Order: The August 15, 2024 meeting of the Danvers Democratic Town Committee was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chair Lou Bernazzani

Approval of Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Beatrice Clark and seconded by Tom Meagher to approve both the May 6, 2024 and June 24, 2024 secretary minutes as presented. Motions passed unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer Report: in treasurer Karen Desmond's absence, Chairperson Bernazzani reported we had \$3,030.06 in our checking account. A motion was made by Elaine Hegan and seconded by Beatrice Clark to accept the treasurer report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

So, did anything happen since our last meeting in June? The transition from Joe Biden to Kamala Harris was discussed. Our committee expressed gratitude and respect for Joe Biden and enthusiasm and hope and joy with Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. Julie Curtis reported younger people are more engaged since Biden's departure.

Speakers:

Alex Bausch from the MassDems related the surge in volunteering since Harris was nominated and discussed what our committee could do to elect Harris/Walz especially in New Hampshire. He added Massachusetts volunteers account for over 25% of people canvassing. Presently people are canvassing in Portsmouth, Nashua, Keene and Manchester.

Mary Henry spoke on behalf of Eileen Duff who is running for the vacant Essex South Register of Deeds position. She asked for our support of Duff campaign in the September 3rd Primary.

Our State Representative Sally Kerans spoke about the progress she and legislators made on the maternal health bill/midwife certification this week as well as continued to work on economic development and clean energy. She also spoke about housing for migrant families, expanding long term care for Veterans, the Steward health care situation, and battling GOP efforts to undermine voting. Kerans added that Governor Healey had signed a bill that prohibit the presence of PFAS ,the "forever chemicals" in protective gear worn by firefighters due to their water and heat resistant properties after 2027. She also said the legislative session was not over, that the legislators can still pass bills in informal session.

A discussion was held regarding **actions our committee should take to elect Democrats in November.** Committee interested in New Hampshire group canvassing, post card parties, phone banking, etc. Marilyn Hazel offered her home for post card addressing.

Reports of Officers and Committees: The Committee gave a “shout out” to Liz Brennan for all she did to make our recent toiletry drive in front of the Maple Street CVS as successful as it was. Brennan responded that all collected items would be brought to the Danvers People to People food pantry. Phil Bolduc was also thanked for negotiating with the Town guidelines for holding information booths at summer concerts and other events.

New Member: A motion was made by Sally Kerans and seconded by Liz Brennan to elect Charlotte Jordan as a voting member of the Danvers Democratic Town Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: The Danvers Democratic Town Committee now has a Instagram account. It is danversdems1. The Massachusetts primary is September 3, 2024. Early voting begins on August 24th.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Octoberfest Update – Date is Saturday, September 28th. The theme is “We Choose Freedom”. Chairman Bernazzani has emailed everyone a copy of the invitation and is looking for volunteers to serve on the Octoberfest Committee.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Phil Bolduc and seconded by Beatrice Clark to adjourn the August 15, 2024 meeting of the Danvers Democratic Town Committee at 8:45 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E. Curtis
Recording Secretary