

**Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes**  
**Hybrid Meeting-Zoom/In-Person**  
**New Horizons**  
**420 Hemingway Street**  
**Marlborough, MA**  
**Monthly Meeting January 13, 2024**

**Officers:** Dan Caruso, Chair; Barbara Allen, Co-Chair; Debbie Doucette, Secretary; George LaVenture, Treasurer; Rosalind Baker, Affirmative Action Chair/Temporary Political Action Chair

**Attending Members:** Dan Caruso, Debbie Doucette, Dave Doucette, Alice Wertheimer, Pamela McNair, Joan Gregoire, Rosalind Baker, Trey Fuccillo, Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Diane Stevens, Barbara Allen, Carmine Gentile, Doug Pizzi, Alex Williamson, Danielle Gregoire, Jamie Eldridge.

**Guest:** J. Michael Gilbreath, Chair of Wayland Democratic Town Committee

**Call to Order:** 10:07am

**Minutes:** November & December Minutes have been approved and filed.

**Communications/Correspondence:** Dan has received communication from other city/town Dem Chairs via zoom, Karen Towbridge from Newburyport, Sharon Stout from Newton, Deb Garland from Brookline. Would like to share ideas and events. The Mass Dems will hold their state monthly meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Little Theater in Marlborough.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Budget:** Budget meeting delayed. Dan Caruso and Barbara Allen will meet before February meeting. Annual dues/donations are now due.

**Reports of Committees:**

**Membership:** The Committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup> at Diane Stevens' house. Membership spoke to various topics including Voter Registration, Networking, Activism, Goals and adding to membership. See Barbara Allen for meeting minutes. Most important is to fill in Ward Chairs for Ward 1 and Ward 5.

Pam McNair agrees to become chair for Ward 1. Will vote her in at next MDCC meeting in February. Dan will ask the State DCC if only Ward 1 people can vote Pam in or can any member vote for her, no matter what ward they live in.

Roz suggested that we look to leadership in the State Democrat Party.

**Political Action:** Manage campaign speakers coming to MDCC meetings.

**Events** –Food Drive Date:

January 20<sup>th</sup>

Located at Navin’s Skating parking lot, starting at 10am. Barbara Allen will put together signage for the Food Drive.

**Public Relations:** Media/website, Alice Wertheimer.

**By-Laws:** N/A

**State Senator-Jamie Eldridge:** Gun Safety Bill is headed for the Senate for a vote as well as a Climate Bill. Both look good for passage.

Jamie emphasized that we need to reach out to the Brazilian community to find out their issues with State or Federal government. Bring in speakers on Housing and other Social Issues.

**State Reps-Danielle Gregoire:** Budgeting will be level funded and conservative. Our state is strong financially. We have a high bond rating.

Roz Baker added that there have been cuts in the DDC which leads to low staff in Mass Health and Day Programs.

**State Rep-Carmine Gentile:** Been working on the State Budget. Fixed the numerous loopholes in the Domestic Violence crimes and Deep Fake. These have passed the legislature and went to the Senate mid-January for a vote. A Housing Bond bill includes a government pilot program Social Housing with a revolving fund to provide 30% construction and 70% bank housing. Estimate of 200,000 housing is needed in our state per State Affordable Housing Authority.

**City Council -Ward 2:** Dave Doucette. The Sasseville Way project has pulled out but has left a door open to come back and try again.

The Armory downtown has been approved to convert into apartments.

**City Council – Ward 6:** Trey Fuccillo. Following closely both the Red Spring and Sasseville Way properties as they are both in his Ward.

**School Committee** – Michelle Bodin-Hettinger. School Business Manager is retiring. Negotiations over teacher’s salaries are beginning.

**Guest - Chair of Wayland DTC** – J. Michael Gilbreath. Advised us to use the State Dem Committee to help us to reach out to minority grps and to schedule speakers.

**Motion to Adjourn** – Barbara Allen

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion** – Danielle Gregoire

**Adjourned at 11:35AM**

Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary