

Marlborough Democratic City Committee

Virtual Monthly Meeting, March 13, 2021

10:00 am

ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85178993779?pwd=dE5RMHJON3J6eEJDV21laVM1Nlc0UT09>

Dial-in number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 851 7899 3779

Passcode: 665861

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of February Minutes

Communications/Correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Report of Officers

Reports of Committees/Action Items

Legislative Update

Old Business

Calendar – Ward, Sub-Committee, Executive Board, MDCC

Budget – Dues, Donations, and Fundraisers

MassDems Organizing Hub

New Business

Special Presentation – *VOTES Act* – Patrick Roath

***The 2021 Project* - MDCC**

Next Meeting – Date (April 10, 2021)

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 March 13 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, Danielle Gregoire, Alice Wertheimer, Dave Doucette, Diane Stevens, Carmine Gentile, Teria Ellis, Babs Fenby, Samantha Perlman, Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Lee Hettinger, Roz Baker

Non-Members: Christopher Lorant, Kate Donaghue Dem State Committee; Kara Le Treize, Dem State Committee
Keavin Duffy, Dhruba Sen, Activitst

Guest: Patrick Roath, Voter's Rights Advocate

Time meeting brought to order: 10:10 AM

Feb Minutes: Babs Fenby made a motion to accept Feb Minutes.
Dave Doucette 2nd the motion

Correspondence: Debbie Doucette; Secretary

Two of our MDCC banners were found. Need to be cleaned off—but in good shape.

Treasurer's Report:

Copy of Treasurer Report emailed to members prior to meeting. There is a projected balance of \$1988.20 as of 3/20/21. Dave motion to accept Treasurers Report, Babs Fenby 2nd the motion

Officer's / Committee Reports

Event Report: Pam McNair
Food Drive

Report emailed out to members describing our 2nd food drive on 3/27 at 10am-2pm at Kane School parking lot, to be dropped off at Marlborough Food Pantry Tuesday March 30th at 9am. Pam requesting volunteers for those two dates.

Pam motioned a request for \$150 from the MDCC treasury to be used to rent a U-haul van to transport the collected food to the food pantry as well as purchasing items for children Easter baskets. Diane Stevens 2nd the motion. Pam suggested if people wanted to collect food at their neighborhood they can bring it directly to the food pantry on Monday. An email reminder will be sent out.

Political Action: Alex Williamson

No report

By-Laws Committee: Marilyn Perry

No Report

Communications: Doug Pizzi

Connect with Pam about setting up a press release of event in local papers

Membership: Barbara Allen

Emailed Membership Mtg report of 2/27. Discussions of following topics:

- Outreach/brochures-multilingual to post on facebook and website
- Update membership list
- Enlisting Ward 5 Chair
- Listing of Committees for members to join

Next zoom Membership Meeting 3/20 at 10AM

Legislation Round-Up

Carmine Gentile – State Representative 13th Middlesex District

- House has passed a bill on 3/11 that will not tax Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (OUA). This will place S-Corp and LLC businesses on the same footing as C Corporation employers who will not be paying federal or state income tax on PUA benefits received and paid to employees.
- State will extend an additional 40hr paid sick time-due to COVID-19.
- Postpone single business owners' raise of employers contribution to unemployment insurance

Danielle Gregoire: State Rep, 14th Middlesex District

Climate bill that was previously vetoed by Gov Baker and immediately refilled is up for vote again.

Questions:

Diane Stevens – Why is the Governor opposed to the Climate bill?

Danielle G. - The Governor has concerns that the bill adds too big of a cost to business. The legislature is willing to work with the Governor on some of the changes but not all of them.

Doug Pizzi- I want to thank both Carmine and Danielle on signing on as co-sponsors of a bill for Public Lands Preservation Act.

Local Government Round-up

Samantha Perlman – City Councilor at Large

Three resolutions were filed and passed in City Council last Monday (3/8) to be sent to state legislators;

- State Dept of Health to do an impact analysis of the proposed site of Mass General Brigham Hospital to be located in Westborough Would it increase health costs? How will this impact Marlborough Hospital?
- State providing vaccinations to be given at local Board of Health Depts. instead of regional sites.
- Would traffic lights on route 20 east be supported by the legislators if the McGee Farm property goes forward.

Danielle G.- To be clear I was aware of the resolution by reading the City Council Agenda but we have not yet received the resolutions at the state legislature. It was sent by the Mayor and the President of the City Council.

Need to have a better flow of communication. A lot of conflicting info about where and when vaccines would be available in Marlborough. The City reassigned the responsibility to the Marlborough UMass Hospital. A vaccination site finally opened up at the Marriott on rte 20 west. They have 500 1st doses, 500 2nd doses and another 500 doses are due next week.

Comments:

Barbara Allen- Used the preregistration online at 6am. Worked fine with no glitches.

Laura Wagner: Ward 1 City Councilor

Public hearing for the Marlborough Dept of Health scheduled for April 6th.

Dave Doucette: Ward 2 City Councilor

Confirms that the Marriott Hotel site is up and running giving out vaccines as long as the doses are available.

Made request to our State Reps Carmine G. and Danielle G. to look into the breakdown of municipalities as to how many people of that have received vaccines. Would be helpful tracking data. Concerned people who have trouble getting to vaccination sites because of no transportation are missing out on vaccinations. Process may turn into an implicit limitation.

Currently involved in updating a fencing ordinance.

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger: Marlborough School Committee

Still a rollercoaster ride for the kids; are they in or out of school. Governor Baker's edict is to have PreK – 5th grades to be in school fulltime by April 5th.

In Marlborough the lower grades PreK thru 2nd grade are currently in school and has been since the fall. School classes Grades 3 thru 5 poses more difficulty keeping the students spaced between 3 and 6ft apart. Will have to manage. The Middle School students will be back in school full time by April 28th. H.S. is scheduled to open as well but no date has been set as to when they will return to school full time.

Received 2022 budget. Committee is working thru the process. Intent is to have a zero increase budget. School Committee won't have the funds from the gov't that they had this year. There will be a public hearing in about 4 weeks.

Old Business:

Calendar Events

Ward Chairs, or subcommittees need to post dates including meetings. Send to Barb Allen for her to post on Facebook.

Budget

Need to budget for candidate expenses after primary. Diane Stevens working with Events Committee for fundraising.

Dues

Voluntary dues-please contribute

Mass Dems Organizing Hub

Saturdays at 3pm. Zoom based. Includes breakout rooms for discussion groups on organizing, making telephone calls to Dems in other states. Currently calling Dem voters in Wisconsin thanking them for their Biden support.

**Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary
April 5, 2021**