

**Marlborough Democratic City Committee
Virtual Monthly Meeting, February 13, 2021**

10:00 am

ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81394983499?pwd=WmpaZkFHMWh1SGsyWHhVQjNqTGRUUT09>

Dial-in number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 813 9498 3499

Passcode: 668863

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call of Officers

Approval of January Minutes

Communications/Correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Report of Officers

Reports of Committees

Legislative Update

Old Business

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

Budget – Dues, Donations, and Fundraisers

New Business

MCC Food Drive

MassDems Organizing Hub

Issues/Platform Convention

Executive Board Meeting

Looking Forward

Role – Responsibility – Relationship

Purpose – Practice - Product

Next Meeting – Date, Guest

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](https://actblue.com). WE CANNOT ACCEPT CASH.

Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Marlborough, MA
Monthly Meeting February 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 Werthheimer, Kathleen O'Connor, Joan Gregoire, Dave Doucette, Diane Stevens, Carmine Gentile, Teria Ellis, Babs Fenby, Samantha Perlman, Christopher Lorant, Rick Guzzi, Ed Pastor, Barbara Shapiro, Kate Donaghue, Keavin Duffy, Dhruba Sen

Time meeting brought to order:

10:10 AM

Treasurer's Report:

No report

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 – Barbara Allen

Food Drive-1/19/2021; 9AM-Noon, Collect Food 01/18/21. Dropped off at B. Allen's house. The morning of 1/19/21 volunteers brought the collected food to the Marlborough Cupboard. There were 11 cars of volunteers to drop off the food. A total weigh-in at 1-1/2 tons. Barbara(Marlborough Cupboard coordinator) requested if this could be done on a regular basis, quarterly. Barbara Allen suggested that a different drop off location be used, perhaps a parking lot and the possibility of renting a truck would be helpful.

Diane Stevens mentioned that there were 35 people in her neighborhood alone that donated food.

Doug Pizzi did a wonderful job of writing up an announcement of the event prior to the date in the Patch and other local papers as well as a follow-up with pictures. Received a great response from readers. We appreciate his professionalism.

Alex Williamson suggested that we submit monthly/quarterly updates and announcements of the MDCC in the local papers. Be helpful to recognize our organization to the City

Barbara Allen will be setting up a Membership and Outreach Committee meeting on February 27th at 10AM to go over ward chairs, member build-up and working with other town Democratic Committees

Legislation Round-Up

Danielle Gregoire: State Rep, 14th Middlesex District

- New Legislation Session began January 6, 2021
- Filing bills have been extended to February 19th
- Continued adoption of operating remotely thru end of July
- Receiving committee assignments – Chairing newly made Joint Standing Committee on Bonds/Expenditures (House only). Will be working “hand in glove” with Chairman of Ways & Means Committee.
- Supports Speaker Mariano’s dedication to looking into Gov Baker’s actions of the state’s vaccination process and what made the rollout so erratic and how money was spent.
- Danielle has received between 10-15 calls a day on problems with the process from her constituents.
- Bill on Shock Treatment Therapy. The key person pushing this bill died recently and his wife is on the Children & Families Committee and was never for it. This year she is Chair and will not let that bill see the light of day.
- Supports the Death with Dignity Bill. There is enough hoops to go through and has enough protection to be used humanely

Carmine Gentile – State Representative 13th Middlesex District

- Received Committee Assignments – Received new position of Vice Chair of Higher Education Committee. Continue to be on the Elderly Affairs Committee, Environmental Resources and Agriculture Committee and the State Administration Committee.
- Carmine questioned Gov’s statement of having people who accompany elderly people to get their vaccine shot also be vaccinated. Carmine called Board of Health to find out if that was a proper procedure and it was not recommended. It will leave less vaccine available for the people who need it the most.
- Co-sponsored Death with Dignity Bill every time it comes up for vote. It’s been on the ballot off and on for 6 to 7 years.

Questions:

Babs Fenby: The ACLU mentioned state redistricting. What is happening with that?

Danielle Gregoire: There has been a drop in population in the western part of the state. Estimated 60,000 drop in population West of Jim McGovern’s District and 40,000 drop in Jim McGovern’s District alone. Marlborough will most likely become part of Jim’s District to balance out his loss. Our districts inside of Rte 495 will stay pretty much the same.

Dave Doucette: Sent out an email to both Carmine and Danielle regarding a new bill to have Mass Save support people under Energy Assistance. Has anything moved forward on this request?

Carmine Gentile: Currently looking at bill drafts received 6 mths ago. Recommends to write a draft for the bill. Currently there is no other advocate pushing this. Getting signatures would be helpful. Could a place marker for it.

Danielle Gregoire: Recommends to make it a regulatory statute. May be quicker.

Dave Doucette: Comment In a speech in February, our Mayor stated that it would take 7 years to get everyone in Marlborough vaccinated at the rate the vaccines are being delivered to our city.

Danielle Gregoire: It's happening throughout the state. The states aren't receiving the number of vaccines their citizens need. Currently it is a fiasco with very little communication from top to bottom at the state level. Legislators are pushing the Gov to get more vaccine.

Kevin Duffy: Is mandating vaccines in the future for Massachusetts? RI is allowing unemployed people to attend college classes in return of their unemployment pay.

Danielle Gregoire: There have been no discussions on mandating vaccines when there have not been enough vaccines to cover the age group over 75. Perhaps later discussions on mandating will happen. The over 75 age group feels more comfortable getting vaccinated at local Sr Centers or town Board of Health. That worked at the beginning then Gov Baker closed the Sr Centers and Board of Health offices and opted for larger facilities. There just isn't enough vaccine to give to everyone at this point.

Carmine Gentile: Large percentages (30%) of blacks & browns in MA are deciding not to get vaccines.

Babs Fenby: What can we do as citizens to help contact the over 75 group in regard to vaccines?

Danielle Gregoire: The Sr Center has put together a list of 100 over 75 residents who should be getting the vaccine. Then once the Sr Center has gone thru that list they will put together lists with fewer numbers of people. Volunteers can help call these people.

Alice Wertheimer: Question about the school teachers getting vaccinated in Marlborough.

Dan Caruso: Will bring this up when he speaks about the School Committee

Local Government Round-up

Dave Doucette: Ward 2 City Councilor

McGee Farm/Condos is still under negotiation discussion between Urban Affairs and City Council. The condos will be built with heat pumps, all electric utilities and no natural gas. This will provide a demonstration of what an environmental housing development would look like.

The committee assignments have been assigned in the City Council. Dave is to chair the newly formed Climate Resiliency. The members at this point will include Don Landers and Laura Wagner. We will meet to determine a mission statement.

Laura Wagner: Ward 1 City Councilor McGee Farm/Condos is still main issue. Frustrated at how long this has taken. The traffic lights are the main obstacle now. It's a TBA.

Samantha Perlman – City Councilor at Large

Reports that sign up for vaccination appointments for people over 75 are best done on Mondays online. Process is still very frustrating and not very transparent.

Proposing a Mural Ordinance for the city. This would be set specifically for murals and does not include signage. The first meeting at Urban Affairs was cancelled because of a snowstorm. Another meeting is scheduled this Thursday.

Carmine Gentile: In response to Dave Doucette

Carmine spoke with a DOT Engineer who was working with the Condo Developer. The engineer stated that last November (2020) the developer was asked to do a traffic study to determine if a traffic light is needed at the condo's exit/entrance. The numbers were very low and did not substantiate enough evidence to put in a traffic light. Because of that traffic study result it is very slim that a light would be warranted. There will be sidewalks going in the same time as the road will be reworked to include a left turn lane into the proposed property development.

Dan Caruso: Marlborough School Committee

Students will be attending school after February vacation staggering the groups for hybrid teaching. By middle of March all students will be back to school. Group A will attend school one week while Group B will be taught through distance learning at home. The teachers are teaching both groups at the same time. Then the Groups A & B switch their class locations. Pool testing will begin after vacation as well. Marlborough School Bus drivers have been doing distancing, masks reminders, hand sanitizing on their busses since the beginning. Began before the CDC has come out with their recommendations.

Chairs Comments:

Calendar Events; what we can plan for now. How often does the Executive Committee need to meet? Is there anything going on in our ward that the rest of us should know about. Is there anything we can do differently? Are there any suggestions to run the meeting better. Currently we are going thru a bit of a lull so this would be a good time to restructure our organization.

Think about fundraisers and events to support some of the Political Action. Invite speakers as a public awareness or to our meetings.

If there is interest to set up another Food Drive go thru the Events Committee for volunteers and Doug Pizzi for Communications. Doesn't always need to come from the chair.

Would like to set up an Executive Meeting before our March meeting. People involved in the Executive meeting are the Officers and the Ward Chairs.

Kate Donoghue:

Kate is the Co-Chair of the State Democratic Campaign Services. Her group has created a new pilot group called Organizing Hub. Meets every Saturday from 3-5pm on zoom. There are projects both National and Local or if you want to do your own independent

study there are breakout rooms where you can meet with someone to work with. A link will be sent out.

This year the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention will be a platform convention slated to be scheduled in the fall. We will be notified how it will be set up, virtual or not. The Caucus will be held in the June-July time period.

Looking Forward-Dan Caruso

As an exercise in teamwork think about "who" you are in this organization, what your role is, your relationship and responsibility to others in our group. Whether you are a member, ward chair, officer or a member of the standing committee think of how you can benefit the group. Also think about the purpose of your role in the group and what type of product you want to see us commit to. What the mission should be. Take a look at the list of Standing Committees and join one of them to get involved.

Comments:

Alice Wertheimer: Would like to recommend a new Standing Committee for Technical Infrastructure. Need a group to tie all our electronic media together, keep media updated and to benefit us in the community. Need a skilled tech person.

Barbara Allen: Agrees with Alice. Perhaps under Membership and Outreach. Need more discussion

Dan Caruso: Need to change By-Laws if it becomes a new Standing Committee.

Next Meeting: March 13th

Speaker Patrick Roath, Chairman of the Board, Common Cause
Will speak to "Voter's Act"

Adjourn 11:35 AM

**Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary
March 10, 2021**