

Minutes
Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Attendance: Maureen Cosgrove-Deery, Sharmili Das, Kenneth Deitch, Dave Erickson, Bridget Ferrari, Robert Kearney, Nancy Kronenberg, Rebecca Morris, Dan Scholten, Helen Young

1. Bylaws and Policies

Nancy noted that 17 members were elected in the March 4 election but two of those are lifetime members so that we currently have 15 elected members and 5 lifetime members (what of the 5 write in votes). In 2023 we had 25 members, including lifetime members. Determining a quorum is the only place where we do not count lifetime members, so currently a quorum is $15/4$ rounded up to 4 and a $1/3$ value is $20/3$ rounded up to 7. Nancy notes that email voting definitely gets more votes. Bridget asked about how much of the bylaws were state mandated. Ken stated that we do not violate state bylaws but Robert noted that we are somewhat unique as we lowered the quorum to $1/4$ because Nancy was not able to get enough people for a quorum. The bylaws say we can invite a member to leave if they attend fewer than one half of the meetings but we are unlikely to do that. Ken said that we have not updated the bylaws for 3 years and he wants people to be aware of the current drafts for the bylaws and procedures. In 2019 the DTC substantially enlarged these documents. The policy and procedures guide how the bylaws are implemented and they have tried to be quite explicit in a number of areas but especially on one aspect of public communication. Ken went on to say that they (Ken and Nancy) started with policies and procedures and then went back to the bylaws. They still have some small edits to add.

Maureen noted that we have 7 people who could vote tonight but Ken said he does not want a vote tonight because there are still some edits to make.

At this point we began going through the draft Policies and Procedures. Neutrality in town elections has been in since 2019. Nancy noted that the procedures for amending CDTC bylaws are too cumbersome for LTEs and public communications, the CDTC should be able to decide in a single meeting on things that are not truly controversial. Nancy noted that when things go to an email vote, that the vote starts over- votes cast in the meeting are not counted in the email votes but the email vote does get people who never come to meetings. Nancy then went through the definition of public communication and described the steps for approving such a communication. While this is laid out in the document, it seemed to create considerable confusion and the rest of the meeting was devoted to detailing how this would be done. Various suggestions, such as process flow diagrams, flow charts, and specific examples were proposed as a means to help clarify this. Nancy said that she will prepare a flow chart and Bridget volunteered to do some process flow diagrams.

2. Ken moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded and we adjourned at 8:16 pm.