

Minutes
Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2022, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Attendance: Dan Cook, Maureen Cosgroave-deery, Dave Erickson, Bridget Ferrari, Bob Herndon, Robert Kearney, Nancy Kronenberg, bonnie Miskolczy, Rebecca Morris, Rebecca Morris, frank Rigg, Dan Scholten, Francis Tacardon, Bob Wallhagen

1. Bob Herndon

Bob Herndon was born and raised in Carlisle. He left in '81 to attend Emory University in Georgia. Over the last 40 years Georgia has gone from 100% Democratic to Republican Dominated. Georgia has had a Republican Governor, and Republican controlled Senate since 2002 as well as a Republican controlled house since 2004. Democrats started to make a crack in 2017/18, the book "Flipped: How Georgia Turned Purple and Broke the Monopoly on Republican Power" is the best book on Georgia and goes into detail about how Georgia went for Biden, Warnock, and Ossoff in 20/21. Stacy Abrams made a strong showing against Kemp in 2018 when Kemp was Secretary of State and controlled the election, a position which he refused to resign before the election and used that office to throw out absentee ballots that did not have exact matches. Stacy Abrams was able to change that so such ballots were not thrown out in 2020 so that the number of rejected ballots went from 6% in 2018 to 2% in 2020. This year will see a rematch between Abrams and Kemp. Warnock vs. Herschel is close, most people expect there will be another runoff.

Bridget asked what we can do and Rebecca Morris asked about election law changes since 2020. Herndon said that a lot of laws have been passed. Early voting has been changed some, about 75% of the drop boxes have been eliminated, but the big change is that the State can overturn the county results. We're worried about that; Democrats have a great ground game but they need all the help they can get.

Nancy said that in the past we've written post cards, mostly directed to black voters and she asked Herndon for recommendations, Bob Herndon will send information on post cards, texting, and calling. He said that in 2020 Democrats had a record number of people running for the State House and those people probably helped Biden win. We need to support down ballot candidates as well as national candidates, even small dollar amounts will help--Democrats are trying to flip the House, there are currently 76 Democrats out of 180 seats so Democrats only need 14 more seats to flip the house.

2. Treasurer's report

Dan reported that we did well at the picnic, getting about \$1282 in July giving us a balance of \$2507.41 leaving us with \$2348.24.

3. Kim Driscoll

Robert Kearney introduced Kim saying that she was born in Hawaii about 50 some years (actually 56 years ago). She received a BA from Salem State University and a JD from the Massachusetts School of Law. She has been the mayor of Salem for 17 years. She is excited about the opportunity to serve as the next Lt. Governor. She was a "Navy brat" and lived all over. Her father was a native of Lynn and her mother was from Trinidad. Her dad is a second-generation union bricklayer. She worked for Chelsea as they were coming out of receivership. In 2005 she ran for Mayor of Salem to improve the city. 17 years later Salem is the 3rd most visited destination in Massachusetts. She is excited to serve as Lt. Governor because she knows the value of partnering with the State. As a coastal community she sees the impacts of change and has been working with Beverly on climate action. Being mayor helps to makes you a better listener and it is great to be with us today.

Rebecca Morris asked what she sees as the role of the Lt. Governor. Kim replied that being the leader in a large organization requires a solid team around you. The Lt. Governor does have formal responsibilities: the Lt. Gov. chairs Governor's Council and advisory council. She would look to have input to the Governor. In past administrations the Lt. Gov. has been liaison to towns--many of the problems need action at a local level and she has done a lot of local work in Salem. Salem replaced lights with LEDS, provides 100% clean electricity at below Eversource rates, instituted a bike share program. She would look to expand to ebikes as Lt. Gov.

Maureen Deery said that Salem has done a great job with affordable housing. Carlisle will never hit 10%, not even 2%, does she have any ideas about how a town like Carlisle can deal with these issues. Kim said Salem worked on a housing production plan. This allowed them to drill down on the problems. The good news is that everyone is working longer, the bad news is they don't have the kind of housing to allow you to age in

place. They have put in accessory housing regulations that help. The best part of planning is bringing people together, they are looking at building housing on the school campus. Maureen also asked about infrastructure: parking, water, etc. Kim said that Salem engaged in conversations with residents and hopes the State can support more housing production plans. Maureen said we'd been working on that for a year and Kim said she hopes to be a partner as we move forward.

Rebecca asked about the Republican allegations of funding by a super Pac. Kim doesn't know where that came from.

Rebecca also asked about the situation in Washing and whether we will continue to see support from the Federal Government. Kim thinks we have a lot in the hopper coming to Massachusetts. Offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine could be a game changer. She thinks we have \$300-500 million for broadband and there is a lot of innovation happening around high-speed internet--the Infrastructure Bill provides a tremendous amount of resources, some of it in a competitive way and some is per capita. Kim said she always worries about uncertainties but we currently have a \$5 billion surplus so we are currently in a good place right, although not every place in the Commonwealth has done as well as the seaport area.

Rebecca asked if there any state level policies where you see a dramatic departure. Kim said transportation is a huge challenge, we need to try things that other states are already trying. Schooling is another big challenge. Early learning, then in HS career and college readiness. Let's focus on having that experience be one that is more enriching than currently--she wants to influence. position, and help implement policies.

Robert Kearney asked to what extent are the MBTA problems financial and could the state help. Kim- said the problems are a result of a lack of consistent annual investment in either the operational side or the capital side. Many managers have left. We currently have the Sumner tunnel closed on weekends and in May it will be closed 24/7.

Dan Cook asked about bullet trains. Kim said the Feds have funded the west east rail and Ma. has kicked in their portion. People see it as valuable connector, better connections are good but rail alone is not the answer, Western Ma. needs support for their regional economy.

Bridget thanked Kim for her presentation and Kim appreciated the opportunity.

In the general discussion following people seemed to be impressed. Maureen thought that Kim would provide what is needed, someone who understands cities and towns.

4. Minutes

Dan moved to accept the minutes from 7/21/2022, Frank and Robert seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

5. Picnic recap

Could we improve the sound next year? Maureen said we have always had a band so we used their microphone. Bob Wallhagen had anticipated borrowing a mike and speakers from the church but ran out of time. We should look at this in the future. Bob also spent time pulling recycles from the trash. Launa has volunteered to run a trash free picnic; she has sent an email on how to reduce garbage. Francis asked Bob W. whether he would continue to host the picnic (he has hosted for the past 6 years). Bob said yes but he needs more help. Francis had permission to hold the picnic on town land but 3rd Mad sent out Bob's address. Bob Kearney said to leave the town as plan B. Maureen said that she had been for sandwiches but thought the hamburgers/hot dogs turned out well so she thought it would be good to continue that. She also thought considering that the house was still in session that the turnout was good (about 110 people). Dan said we had a few extra buns but we were right on in the number of hamburgers and hot dogs.

6. Miscellaneous

Maureen brought up holding signs at the rotary, she will come up with some ideas.

The Housing production plan will be presented on September 9th and we need to participate. Maureen will send out the link.

There was also discussion about post cards--Maureen will send out an email

Nancy thinks we should empty our associate member list and move them to friends. Several people will become life members--they don't take seats out of the 35 available and don't count for quorum, although they can vote.

7. Adjourn: Dan Cook moved to adjourn, it was seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.