

Minutes
Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 2023, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Attendance: Maureen Cosgrove-Deery, Sharmili Das, Kenneth Deitch, Dave Erickson, Bridget Ferrari, Robert Kearney, Nancy Kronenberg, Bonnie Miskolczy, Rebecca Morris, Bob Wallhagen, Launa Zimmaro

1. Ken moved to accept the minutes from 11/17/22. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report
Dan emailed that there is \$1286.61 in the bank account.
3. Survey Results
Climate change topped the list of concerns with 66.67%, economic inequity came in at 55.56%, protecting the election system at 44.44%, electing democrats at 33.33%, civil rights/racial justice at 22.22%, and healthcare 22.22%. Ranked choice voting received no votes, but this was largely because people could only select 3 issues and many might have put ranked choice voting as number 4; Bridget said that unfortunately there was a fee if we wanted to rank all of the issues.
Launa was interviewed by students and climate change was their most important issue. Launa noted that educating the public is of primary importance and it is absolutely essential to have the right people in office. There was a discussion of the survey with Maureen saying the survey gives us a better understanding of how people feel. Bonnie asked whether it would make sense to put leadership with civil rights/racial justice. Ken agreed with Launa which is why he felt electing democrats was number 1. Dave said we also need to get Democrats in local politics and special elections to counter the push Republicans are putting in these areas. Bob Kearney brought up school committees banning books, legislating bathrooms, etc. Rebecca replied that this is part of a coordinated attack across the state and we must fight back. Ken had a conversation with superintendent James O'Shea who said that he has had no complaints and that no one has suggested banning books.
4. Town Elections
Launa noted that local elections and issues are nonpartisan and the CDTC does not endorse individuals so it is important that moderators demand answers to questions so we can make a realistic assessment of the candidates. Dave said that George Santos demonstrates how important it is for democrats to truly understand their opponents and call them out when they are seriously misrepresenting themselves. Rebecca said the Santos was called out before the election but the main stream media didn't consider it important enough to publicize it. Rebecca pointed out that while we don't endorse individual candidate, we can get information out and members of the CDTC are free to endorse candidates and work on their behalf. Dave suggested that being nonpartisan with respect to local elections may actually make the CDTC more creditable.
There was some discussion of our non-endorsement policy. Nancy said the policy is one we voted on a few years ago. Ken asked if we could change the rule. We could, but a number of people felt that would not be a good idea.
We can, nevertheless, keep track of the open positions and get a sense of the candidates and publicize their positions, we might have them come to talk to us, although we have limited time before the town elections. Bridget said that we may want to discuss the policy of not doing local endorsements but for today we can orchestrate individual responses. Ken noted that Sharon Witt is a perfect example.
Maureen- said that in the next town election the school committee is the most important. Egri is running again, Brain Waterson is also running and Sharmili says Julie Beil wants to run. Scott Jameson may also want to run, there will be 2 open positions.
There was considerably more discussion on school committee candidates and individual activities to promote individual candidates--if people would like me to expand on this, let me know and I can add more detail.
There was then a discussion on whether we should invite local candidates to the CDTC. There was a general feeling that we should, although it was noted that the LWV already has a candidate forum but it was felt that additional forums can be beneficial, the only problem is that there may not be enough time to accommodate all the candidates..
5. Adjourned at 9:00pm. Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 PM.