

**Minutes**  
**Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022, 7:00 PM via Zoom**

*Attendance:* Simon Cataldo (campaign), Dan Cook, Maureen Deery, Kenneth Deitch, Dave Erickson, Robert Kearney, Nancy Kronenberg, Christine Lear, Bonnie Miskolczy, Rebecca Morris, Carrie Patel, Kate Reid, Frank Rigg, Francis Tacardon, Bob Wallhagen, Launa Zimmaro

1. Thoughts on current politics

Ken Deitch referenced Kate Reid's letter to the editor about the Republican push for local elective offices as a springboard to state and national offices, recent Republican grilling of school officials on CRT was a case in point. While the CDTC could have had a private meeting as well, we decided that such meeting should be public so we declined, instead; we should be identifying good candidates for all committees but particularly the school committee. Ken has been in touch with Carrie and Christine Lear to identify good school committee candidates and encourage them to run and has also been hoping to add more diversity to the school committee. Launa and Kate Reid agreed and noted that it is particularly important because conservatives are attempting to move town committees to the right. There in the next election we will be voting for the following openings:

Select Board - 2 School Committee – 2 BOH – 2 Planning – 3 Board of Assessors - 1 Library – 1

The easiest way to get on the ballot is through the town caucus on March 14. Anyone with recommendations should send them to Ken.

Launa also noted that the DNC has a climate crisis subcommittee to decide what projects to work on and to build interest in action by local governments, this is especially important since the federal government is unlikely to be able to make substantive progress at the moment and Baker is currently slow walking a climate plan.

2. Simon Cataldo

Simon Cataldo's campaign should send an email to get on the CDTC agenda.

3. Priorities

Nancy would like to set priorities, she sees voting rights, electing Democrats, and climate change as top priorities. There will be a number of Republican senators running for reelection in 2022 so we should really put a lot of effort into Senate races, especially considering that we could well lose the House.

4. Treasurer's report

Francis said there's nothing to report. He says there is no need to harass people for money unless there is someplace to spend it—the CDTC can't donate directly to campaigns and the types of organizations we can donate to is complicated.

5. Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Quentin Palfrey

Quentin Palfrey is running for Attorney General, he served in the White House under Obama as General Counsel for the Department of Commerce where he led a team of 400 lawyers. He also helped with a course correction for the Census which Trump had been trying to distort. He says Washington is broken and the states need to lead the way, as Massachusetts has done for universal marriage and universal health care. He also wants to fight for racial justice with Kyle Rittenhouse, George Floyd showing some of our current problems. Roe vs. Wade is hanging by a thread, the gig economy as exemplified by Uber and Lyft are attacking workers' rights and voting rights are under attack.

On prison reform he says we have some structural disparities. In 2018 Massachusetts passed a number of reforms but there is still too much pretrial incarceration, unreasonable fees for prison phone calls and a need for better mental health and reentry services. We also need to cut off the school to prison pipeline. The US incarceration rate is a major embarrassment.

Morris said that Healy made reputation as an aggressive litigator on national issues and came together with other states to maximize our impact. Palfrey said that a lot of the last admin was fighting against Trump. Hopefully, that will not be as necessary over next few years, and this may be a moment to focus on issues that affect us at home especially issues like consumer protection

Bob Kearney asked what he could do to put Massachusetts in a leadership role it. Palfrey thinks we need to pick a few things: racial justice, climate crisis and environmental justice. Democracy is in trouble; we must stand for voting rights. We also need to ensure reproductive rights.

Morris and Kronenberg asked about defending towns against right wing lawsuits. Palfrey noted that if you are a member of the bar you are obligated to have a factual basis and the bar is quite high although it is in general difficult to recover attorney's fees.

Maureen said we need to solve the student loan problem, Biden needs to cancel, not just pause, student debt and should tie the rate to the prime rate.

Dan said the climate crisis is one of the top 3 issues. Palfrey said that we have environmental protection legislation and also an energy division, there are some opportunities in the oversight of utilities to push in the direction of a clean energy transition. More broadly climate is not something that can be siloed--we need to think about the climate generally and there is opportunity for progress. Dan said we are in the midst of a 6th extinction, exacerbated by things like neonicotinoids. Palfrey said that the reduction of some chemicals has brought ospreys back to Massachusetts. Palfrey would love to stay in touch and would like to have our advice.

7. Candidates meeting

Bob Wallhagen announced a candidate's breakfast at the (Waltham?) Hilton Garden Inn on the third Saturday in May.

8. Adjourned at 20:46, next meeting will be Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:00PM.