

Minutes
Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2022, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Attendance: Vivian Birchall (Campaign), Maureen Deery, Kenneth Deitch, David Erickson, Aran Hamilton-Graham, Nancy Kronenberg, Shannon Liss-Riordan (Candidate for Attorney General), Bonnie Miskolczy, Rebecca Morris, Carrie Patel, Sahana Purohit, Frank Rigg, Dan Scholten, Bob Wallhagen, Launa Zimmaro

1. Town Caucus Discussion

Nancy reiterated the CDTC policy of neutrality on candidates running for local office. This was followed by a discussion of the Town Caucus, which produced the following nominees:

Travis Snell, Brian Waterson, and Barbara Arnold are standing for the 2 positions on the Select Board.

Karen Yeyinmen is standing for the Board of Assessors.

Anthony Mariano and Catherine Galligan are standing for the Board of Health.

Joseph Gushue is standing for the Planning board (there are two additional vacancies that currently have no candidates).

no one is standing for Library Trustee

Sara Wilson, Robert Egri, Eva Mostoufi, and Sharon Whitt are standing for the 2 positions on the School Committee.

Cindy Nock and Launa Zimmaro will be doing a candidate's forum.

Maureen said that the Republicans were very active at the caucus and Nancy noted that the CDTC is exceedingly aware that the Republican Party is attempting to take over all committees at the town level.

While the CDTC is neutral at town level it does wish to see qualified, non-partisan candidates winning these elections. Many members of the CDTC are personally involved in trying to ensure that this happens.

2. Minutes for 1/20/2022 were approved.

3. Treasurer's report was deferred.

4. Shanon Liss-Riordan for Attorney General

Shanon opened by thanking us for fitting her in. She said spent her entire career taking on big challenges and delivering results for working people. She has led and won labor violation cases against Starbucks, Harvard, Uber and others. The work she has done has changed industries. In the early 2000 she got calls from wait staff employees whose managers were taking parts of their tips. She found an unused 1952 law that she was able to use to address this. Now industry is very aware that they cannot skim worker's tips. Most recently she has been known for work on gig economy workers, particularly Uber and food delivery services. Her work in this area started a national conversation--and unfortunately these companies are now spending millions on ballot initiatives for exemptions from labor laws. She has also worked to protect immigrants from predatory "franchise" schemes which resulted in the Supreme Court declaring that it is illegal to sell jobs.

Massachusetts has some of the strongest laws in the country and it is important that we serve as a model. She is running for attorney general to preserve and extend this legacy. She is the only AG candidate who is a practicing lawyer, only one who has represented workers, and the only one to manage a law firm.

Erickson asked her about mass incarceration and she said it is an enormous problem. The answer is in changing the way we handle our criminal justice system, too many are incarcerated who really need help.

She supports initiatives deemphasize low level crime and she would work with DAs to provide resources and help rather than criminal prosecution.

Rebecca asked about her role in dealing with climate change. She is ready to enforce our laws. We have laws to protect our planet but these laws are only useful if they are enforced, she would ensure that Corporations are abiding by our laws. Nancy asked for specifics and Shannon replied that we need to have clear standards, she would work with the legislature to ensure environmental standards are a top priority. Launa asked about suing Exxon Mobil. Shannon said that is an important case and she is excited to step into it and continue that prosecution. It is important that this litigation is pursued and that we get the resources to fight climate change.

Rebecca asked why she is the better choice. Shannon reiterated that she is the only candidate to have actually worked as a lawyer. Enforcement is hard work and she has spent 20 years going into court. She sees this race

as a job interview and asks us to consider her background hire a lawyer to be the people's lawyer. Ken asked her how Maura has done and Shanon thinks Maura has done an excellent job, citing the cases against Mobil and the Pharmaceutical industry. She would carry on those types of big picture cases but would also do more work on day-to-day enforcement of wage laws. She thinks there is more we can do to ensure people are paid fairly and that there is still much that can be done to combat discrimination. She would pursue IBM which is trying to drive out older workers; she would attack ageism, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. Nancy asked about curbing voter suppression, especially in other states. Shanon said voter suppression is a huge issue, she is not aware of any current partnerships with other states. The pandemic did make voting more accessible in Massachusetts.

Shannon's campaign (Aran Hamilton) followed up with the following message:

"Thank you for having us with you Carlisle Democrats! To learn more about Shannon's campaign check out our website <https://shannonforag.com> Follow us on social media @shannonforag give us a small contribution of 5 dollars to power our movement: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/websiteslr> Also please feel free to call/text me at 7819108470 or email me at aran@shannonforag.com she looks forward to seeing us at the convention"

5. Vivian Birchall for State Representative

Vivian greeted us with the Swahili greeting habari (literally any news?) to which the reply is often mzuri (fine). She has 2 children (6 and 10) in the Acton Public Schools. She believes in creating a link between government and individuals. She is on the board of directors for Acton/Boxborough United Way, is a coordinator for Emerson hospital and is a member of the Acton Boxborough Rotary Club. These organizations have enabled her to understand the town and people of Acton/Boxborough. She has a global perspective on government. Her first introduction to public policy was as Uganda Country Coordinator for African Parliamentarian Network Against Corruption (APNAC) which worked with the Uganda Legislature to pass anti-corruption legislation. This helped her develop skills in passing difficult and controversial legislation. She then worked with the Hawaii County prosecuting on restorative justice and immigrant and minority community relations, she also worked on improving the Environmental Court in Hawaii. These experiences give her a global view and diversity of experience to help develop better policies. When talking about Environmental policies we need someone who can say how this affects our people. This ability to think outside the box is the only way to address the environmental crisis. She has developed the art of listening and pledges to listen to us all. She seeks our support to be our next state representative.

Launa got a message about a woman who had a fierce but frustrating battle with the Ohio Legislature. What are your thoughts about the way the Massachusetts Legislature operates currently? Vivian there is a great lack of transparency, she pledges to update us requests our input.

Frank mentioned that he spent an afternoon with the Kabaka (king) of Uganda and that Carlisle has a number of people from Uganda.

Nancy said that the State House is working on transparency. One issue is that there are very few roll call votes so it is difficult to know members positions on climate issues. Vivian canvassed for Tami so if elected she will try to protect the achievements she has made.

There was some discussion of the next generation roadmap which is a good start but needs to be fleshed out by the administration, which is currently moving very slowly. Vivian is also concerned about maintaining the Stretch Code.

6. Other

Launa brought up the State Democratic Climate subcommittee will kick off the beginning of May, the local town committees would coordinate with the state and tune in once/month for state climate subcommittee meetings.

Post cards are coming soon but we don't yet have the schedule.

There was a discussion about the Ukraine with Frank recommending the International Rescue Agency (they have very low overhead) and Nancy suggesting a letter to the Mosquito with suggestions for how people can help.

Finally, there was some talk of the CDTC annual picnic. It has been getting to be a bit much for Bob and Marcia to organize. It was suggested that we might have it catered and that we might contact Laurie Aragon who did the food column for the Mosquito for some suggestions on who we might consider.

Finally, Bob Wallhagen said that Mike Barrett will be the keynote speaker at Sustainable Middlesex-- unfortunately, this occurred on March 26 at 9:30-11:00 AM

7. Adjourned at 21:05, next meeting will be Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 7:00PM. Chang Diaz will speak and we have another slot open as well.