



## Woodbury Republican Town Committee

Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2024

Emergency Services Building

Those Present at the meeting: Mike Cunningham, Mary Connolly, Tom Gormley, John Hughes, Donna Kohanowski, John Lewis, Paul Luchetti, Peter Perkinson, Dennis Roberts, Rob Scott, Burt Stevens, Paul Zulpa, and Bob DeLuca.

Absent: Tim Drakeley, Mike Novak and Don Trella

**1) Call to Order:** 7:00 PM

**2) Pledge Allegiance to the Flag**

**3) Recognition of Guests:** First Selectman Barbara Perkinson, Lisa Amatruda and Carol Cunningham

**4) Approval of the Minutes: Motion:** Chairman Cunningham entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 WRTC Meet and Greet meeting. Paul Zulpa made the motion to approve the minutes of April 4, 2024 and it was seconded by Vice Chairman Donna Kohanowski. There were no corrections or additions. All were in favor. **Approved.**

**5) Officer's Report:**

a) Chairman Cunningham – Nothing at this time.

b) Vice Chairman – no report at this time

c) Treasurer – no report at this time as the Treasurer was not at the meeting.

d) Secretary Mackey read the Voter Registration Summary for the month ending 3/27/2024 as follows:

Democratic – 1,945, Republican – 2,433, Unaffiliated - 2,664 and Other – 160 with a total of 7,202 active voters in the Town of Woodbury.

**6) Committee Reports:**

a) Candidate Recruitment Dennis Roberts – The Committee met on April 15, 2024 and interviewed candidates. The candidates that were in attendance were Mark Cody 681 Main Street North for the position of Alternate on the Planning Commission and Jake Amorando of 11 Hard Hill Road for the position of Alternate on the Zoning Commission. Dennis Roberts read their applications. The members of the WRTC were unanimous in voting to recommend both candidates for WRTC Committee approval.

**Motion:** Dennis Roberts entertained a motion to advance these candidate applications to the Board of Selectman. The motion was made by Chairman Cunningham and seconded by Vice Chairman Kohanowski. A discussion was had and there were no questions. Dennis Roberts then read some information on each candidate to the WRTC. Chairman Cunningham then asked for a vote for Mark Cody for the position of

Alternate to the Planning Commission. All were in favor with no nays and no abstentions. He then asked for a vote for Jake Amorando for the position of Alternate to the Zoning Commission. Everyone was in favor with no nays and no abstentions.

\*Please see Dennis Roberts report for the CRC that is included with these minutes.

b) Scholarship - Peter Perkinson – Peter Perkinson explained that a week from tonight at 6:00 PM at the high school Chairman Cunningham will present the WRTC scholarship to the chosen candidate.

c) Fund Raising/Events – John Lewis - \*Setback Tournament - There have been numerous meetings to work out any problems on the Setback Tournament. Everything has been worked out. There has been a lot of advertising, etc. for the Tournament. There will be three raffles and gifts of \$25.00 from Shell donated by John Lewis, \$25.00 from Dotti's donated by Dori and \$25.00 from San Remos Grill. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and the big Food Fuel and Fix it raffle. There are 600 raffle tickets printed at \$10.00 each. The first prize is \$600 in groceries, second prize \$400 in fuel or car repairs, and third prize \$200 at Ace Hardware. They have dates to be out front at Ace Hardware and LaBonnes to sell tickets and the drawing will be September 28<sup>th</sup>. at Comedy Night with the Candidate's Dinner and a Movie. June 30<sup>th</sup>. there will be a picnic on the Barre Hosta Farm Property on Middle Road Turnpike. The WRTC will also have a float in the Memorial Day Parade. The tractor that pulls the float will be driven by Burt Stevens who is a descendant of the family of Mary Todd Lincoln and there will be a Town picnic after the parade. Bob DeLuca's car with Bob driving will be used in the parade and Senator Eric Berthel will be riding with him.

Chairman Cunningham seated Bob DeLuca.

d) Party Building – None at this time.

e) Media – Public Information – Technology – Paul Zulpa and Donna Kohanowski – The website was transferred to Paul and Donna and the domain was renewed on April 2, 2024. They got the website up and running again but it still needs work and they are working on it. They added an Events page and an Agenda and Minutes page. The website needs to be finished by July so dinner and movie tickets can be sold on line and they are looking for more content for the website. They need to get information About Us and a Mission Statement set up which Chairman Cunningham and the Executive Committee will take care of. Some pictures should be added to it also. The Face Book cover page was updated and the logo added. Since March 11, 2024 followers have increased from 90 to 116 people on it along with five new followers in the last 28 days. Any ideas from the Committee would be appreciated. An Instagram account was also added and linked to the Face Book account.

\* Please read Paul and Donna's report that is included with these minutes.

Chairman Cunningham received an email from Bill Monti on expanding the Board of Selectman and this is thought to be a power move by Bill Monti. There was a long discussion and it was decided not to respond to him.

## **7) New Business:**

a) Chairman Cunningham sent out, to everyone, a proposal from the Democratic Town Committee on expanding the Board of Selectman through the Charter revision. He also got an email from Bill Monti of the DTC on this subject who felt it would be a good thing for both parties to support this change in the Charter to show a by-partisanship between the two parties. Chairman Cunningham put it out on the floor for discussion and it was discussed for quite a while. After the discussion it was suggested that the Commission remain silent on this subject. A follow up will be sent to Mr. Monti saying that the WRTC declines to respond and will leave the decision to the Charter Commission.

First Selectman Perkinson spoke and said that ultimately the decision rests with the twelve people on the Charter Revision Committee and we should let the Commission do their work. At the meeting of the Charter

Revision there were more Democrats than Republicans. She suggested that more Republicans attend the next Charter Revision meeting which is next Wednesday evening at 7:00. She also discussed the idea of changing the membership on the Board of Selectman from three to five and felt that this was not necessary as the other two people on the Board help her and that three is workable while five would be too many.

Chairman Cunningham said he appreciated everyone's input and that the number of people on the Board of Selectman should be left to that Commission. He will respond to Bill Monti and let him know that it is up to the Commission. Everyone is in agreement.

**8) Old Business:**

a) Convention Delegates/Alternates - Chairman Cunningham asked if there were any problems or if anyone needed an alternate for any of the Conventions that they will attend. There were no issues at this time.

**9) Privilege of the Floor:**

Paul Zulpa mentioned the Region 14<sup>th</sup>. Referendum which is on May 7<sup>th</sup>. at the Senior Community Center, The Town meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>., and the Budget Referendum on May 28<sup>th</sup>. First Selectman Perkinson mentioned the Blue Star Memorial dedication this Saturday, at 10:00 AM at the green opposite Canfield Corners.

Peter Perkinson was thanked by John Lewis for his help with fund raising events.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mackey, Secretary

## Technology/Publicity Report

### Website Activity

Completed website ownership transfer.

Domain was renewed on April 2.

Got Website up and running again. Updated pages to include logo and fixed sections so they run again.

Added events and included Setback flyer.

Added Agenda/Minutes page and has documents through April

Added Google Analytics to website in order to track interaction activity. Was just added capability so no data as of yet.

Still learning about WordPress and the theme used to create it

### What's needed

More content. Does CRC want to put something up there so they can direct people to the page? More events? Pictures?

Need to add mission statement and about us.

Would like to add Anadot link to page for possible donation. If people feel that is a waste of time, happy to drop it.

Would like to get access to Anadot as a viewer to see what kind of data we can extract from it.

### Facebook

Updated cover page and added logo.

Since March 11, increased followers from 90 to 116 (29% increase).

In last 28 days - our posts reached 711 people. 159 were engaged. 5 new followers added in last 28 days

Posts drove 105 reactions, 8 comments, 15 shares and 40 photo views.

March - 26 posts

April - 18 posts

Need content

### Instagram

New account created

Facebook account was linked to Instagram

Now trying to figure out how Instagram works with that linkage

## April 2024 Republican Town Committee CRC Report

Mr. Chairman and fellow members as reported in March 2024 the CRC Committee held an interview meeting on Monday April 15, 2024.

Five of six members attended the interview. The one member not in attendance Don Trella and family were in the midst of a family crisis and we all wish him well.

The candidates in attendance for the Zoning Commission were Mr. Mark Cody of 681 Main St N and Mr. Jake Amorando of 11 Hard Hill Rd.

Although Mr. Amorando stood firm on his desire to apply for a seat on the Zoning Committee Mr. Cody requested his application be directed to the Planning Commission position opening.

Members were unanimous in voting to recommend both candidates to the WRTC Committee for approval.

Mr. Chairman if I may, I would like to make a motion to advance these candidates applications to the board of Selectman

The following Committees / Commissions have vacancies:

*Building Code Board of Appeals (1) ,term ending 01/05/2026*

*Shade Tree & Sidewalk Commission (2), terms ending 12/31/2025*

*Board of Assessment Appeals (Alt), term ending 12/01/2025*

*Zoning Commission (Alt), term ending 12/06/2027*

*Planning Commission (1), term ending 12/06/2027*

*Conservation Committee (1) term ending 01/06/2025*

**Dennis Roberts**

**Chairman, CRC Committee**