

Woodbury Republican Town Committee Minutes – August 1, 2024

P.O. Box 255, Woodbury, CT 06798

Emergency Services Building – 7:00 PM

Present: Committee members: Mike Cunningham, John Hughes, John Lewis, Nancy Mackey, Bob Ratzenberger, Dennis Roberts, Robert Scott, Burt Stevens, Tom Gormley, Paul Zulpa and Alternate Don Trella.

Absent: Committee Members: Mary Connelly, Tim Drakeley, Donna Kohanowski, and Peter Perkinson, Alternates: Bob DeLuca, and Mike Novak.

1) Call to order by Chairman: Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the large meeting room at the Emergency Services Building.

2) Seating of Alternates: No Alternates present to be seated at this time.

3) Pledge of Allegiance: All stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Recognition of Guests: Karen Reddington-Hughes

Karen attended an emergency session of the State of Connecticut 66th. District. At this session she voted no to raising car taxes but unfortunately the Republicans are a minority party and the majority party voted to raise car taxes. Due to this vote car taxes will not be based on NADA value anymore but on MSRP Value and instead of 80% the majority voted for 85%. She felt that changing the percentage from the original amount was not the right thing to do. The difference will depend on which town you are in and what the mill rate is. This will affect some people more than others. The mill rate is capped and under MFRP the new 85% will go down 5% as cars age.

5) Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Cunningham entertained a motion to approve the WRTC minutes of 7/11/2024. The Motion to approve the minutes was made by Burt Stevens and seconded by Bob Ratzenberger. Chairman Cunningham asked if there were any discussion, corrections or additions and there were none. All were in favor of approving the minutes. **Unanimously Approved**

6) Officers' Reports:

a) Chairman: Chairman Cunningham received an email from Mary Connolley on July 25th. Chairman Cunningham read the email which said that she was stepping down from the Republican Town Committee and the role as Vice Chairman. The Committee is now looking for someone to fill the position of Vice Chairman. Dennis Roberts, John Hughes, and Paul Luchetti offered to do the job of Vice Chairman. A vote on Vice Chairman will be deferred to the next Committee meeting. Chairman Cunningham suggested that anyone interested in being Vice Chairman reach out to him before the next meeting. Also, because there are

now three members of the WRTC interested in doing the job of Vice Chairman Bob DeLuca can now be appointed as a permanent member of the WRTC to fill the vacancy left by Mary Connelly.

b) Treasurer: Treasurer Burt Stevens reported that the month opened up with \$3,187.00. \$40.00 was received from Anedot less Anedot's fees of \$2.20. He wrote a check to George Logan for \$500.00 and received at the end of the month a net of \$104.00 from Anedot. The ending balance at the end of the month is now \$2,830 in the Treasury.

A discussion of the raffle tickets and Anedot followed the Treasurer's report.

c) Secretary: Secretary Mackey reported that between January 30th. and September 30th. The difference in voters was as follows – Democratic minus 32 voters, Republican minus 37 voters, Unaffiliated minus 11 voters and Other a plus one voter. She also read the Town of Woodbury Voter Registration summary as of 7/30/2024 as follows: Democratic – 1897, Republican – 2390, Unaffiliated - 2642 and Other – 160.

Don Trella entered the meeting.

7) Committee Reports:

a) Candidate Recruitment:

CRC Chairman Dennis Roberts reported that for the month of July, 2024 the Committee is looking for the following: Shade Tree & Sidewalk Commission – two candidates, Board of Assessment Appeals –one alternate, and Zoning Board of Appeals – one alternate. He then announced that Susan Pappas of 92 Judson Avenue, Woodbury is a candidate for one of the two seats on the Shade Tree and Sidewalk Commission. Dennis read a letter she provided to the Committee about herself. A sit-down meeting was not held with her as most people know her and her husband. The CRC Committee had four yes votes and one no response to accept Susan Pappas as a candidate for the Shade Tree and Sidewalk Commission. The vote was Unanimous.

Motion: Chairman of CRC Dennis Roberts made a motion to accept Susan Pappas and to send her application to First Selectman Perkinson for approval. The motion was seconded by Paul Luchetti. All were in favor.
Approved.

Karen Reddington Hughes also said that they are looking for people to serve on the Business and Economic Committee. This is an ad hoc committee.

b) Scholarship: No report at this time.

c) Fund Raising/Events: Committee Chairman John Lewis said that some tickets for the raffle are being sold on Anedot. He also said that people will be selling raffle tickets at Dottie's Restaurant on Saturdays, from 8 AM to 11AM and at LaBonnes on 8/17, 9/14 from 11 Am to 3 PM.

* The summer picnic scheduled for 6/30 at the Meadow Brook Farm on Middle Road Turnpike was postponed as they had a chemical scare found in the water and they were not able to test the water so the Event was cancelled.

* The Event that was scheduled for 9/21 was cancelled. It was suggested by John Lewis that a voter registration be done on that day instead and make some food available for people to enjoy while registering. John Lewis will check with the registrars to see if this will work for them.

* The 9/28 Event from 5 to 10 PM was discussed for quite a while. A decision to have the Event a picnic with a movie was made and it was felt that this would work well with a charge of \$15 to \$16 plus \$5.00 for children. A final decision on the Event and which movie to show will be made by a WRTC Zoom meeting. As soon as all the information on the Event is set Paul Zulpa will put the information up on the WRTC Website.

d) Media – Public Information – Technology: * Paul Zulpa passed out the WRTC Technology/Publicity Report and went through the highlights as follows: There are 211 followers now on Face Book. Between 6/28 and

7/30 – there were 77 new people that came in to the WRTC’s Face Book page. Definitely moving in the right direction. * There is a backup now of the website in case it gets hacked it can be brought right up again. As pictures are sent to Paul for the web site, he will put them up. * Paul said that he will reach out to George Logan’s campaign manager to find out what the plug in is for George Logan’s web page as it is really good and the WRTC could perhaps do something like it. * Paul will take off Corey’s Go Fund Me account sometime soon as it is not changing much now. * He was approached by someone that asked if the WRTC could do something about voting. They are trying to find a central spot so people will know who the candidates are. Paul updated all the information for the primary on voting times and places with the help of Kathy Doyle of the Woodbury Registrar of Voters. He also listed all the people that are on the ballot on the website. *Any ideas that people have to improve the website please let Paul Zulpa or Donna Kohanowski know. Chairman Cunningham told Paul Zulpa he appreciated all his hard work.

8) New Business: Karen Redington Hughes said that she will be going door to door campaigning in four days and would welcome anyone who would like to join her. She will also be doing coffees and would appreciate people writing letters to the editor for her.

9) Old Business:

*** Discussion of the Republican Town Committee’s By-Laws.**

*Dennis Roberts discussed and suggested some of the changes he thought should be made to the current WRTC’s By-Laws.

*Rob Scott will send out to the Committee a different set of By-Laws that Southbury has done with a different format for people to look at. He will also send out the changes between The WRTC By-Laws of 2008 and 2023.

* It was asked that the Members of the Committee send out, in the next two weeks, any changes or recommendations to By-Laws Committee members Burt Stevens, Rob Scott and Don Trella.

10) Privilege of the Floor:

*Chairman Cunningham brought ten Trump signs with him to the meeting tonight. Anyone that would like one is welcome to take it. He can also get more if needed. Karen Reddington Hughes also has some signs.

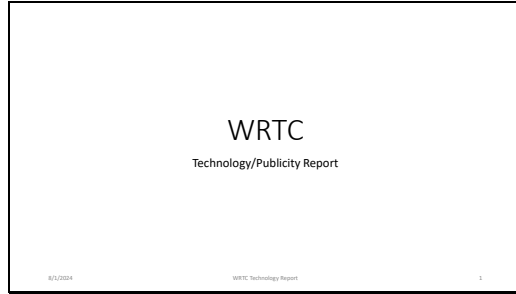
* John Lewis said that Tubi has a whole story on the breakdown of the attempted Trump assassination on TV.

11) Adjournment: Chairman Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Burt Stevens seconded the motion. **Adjourned.**

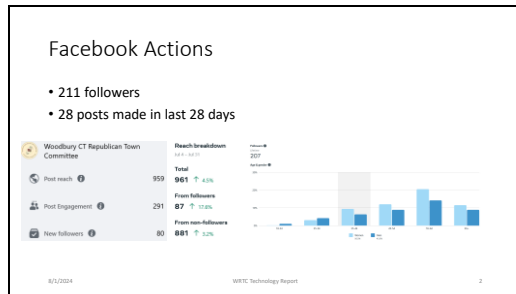
Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Mackey, Secretary

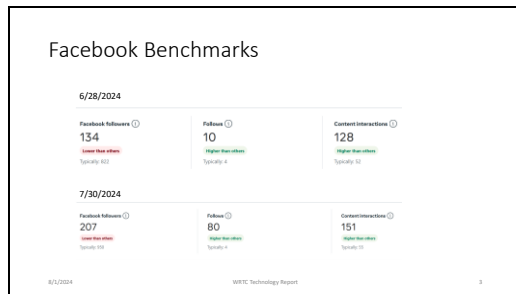
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Website Actions Completed

- Updated all software to latest versions
- Added plugin to perform complete offsite backup of website.
 - Content, site software
- Added new pictures (Trump rally, Logan event at Warner)
- Updated Events (do this weekly)
- Updated header and footer
- Added GoFundMe link to top of page for Corey Comperatore
- Facebook plugin in draft mode – sent for feedback and approval on 6/10. Still open
 - <https://woodburyrtc.org/facebook-feed-test-page/>

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Website Statistics

July 8 Report

Sessions	Pageviews	Avg. Session Duration	Bounce Rate
120	215	56s	45%
↑ 8%	↓ -26%	↑ 9%	↑ 18%
vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days

August 1 Report

Sessions	Pageviews	Avg. Session Duration	Bounce Rate
96	156	32s	44.8%
↓ -33%	↓ -47%	↓ -47%	↑ 15%
vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days	vs. Previous 30 Days

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What's Next

- **CONTENT NEEDED**
 - If we are to increase website interaction, we need to keep content fresh.
 - Events Calendar updates needed (WRTC and other interesting things to highlight)
 - Other content i.e. blog posts
 - VOTE Page
 - WRTC Member profiles
- Facebook feed plugin – feedback needed.
- Website Feedback
 - What things need improvement
 - What things should be added

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<https://woodburyrtc.org/vote/>

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WRTC Profile Page

- Picture
- Name
- WRTC Role
- WRTC Committee Assignments
- Community Service

Example from Westbrook RTC page

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Anedot Raffle Campaign

<https://secure.anedot.com/woodburyrtc/raffle>

Per Burt request – verified that the campaign fulfills SEEC data requirements
Provided a spreadsheet export of all transactions

Item	Description	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross
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