

Woodbury Republican Town Committee Minutes – January 9, 2025

P.O. Box 255, Woodbury, CT 06798

Emergency Services Building – 7:00 PM

Present: Committee members: Mike Cunningham, Bob DeLuca, Tim Drakeley, John Hughes, John Lewis, Paul Luchetti, Peter Perkinson, Dennis Roberts, Rob Scott, Burt Stevens and Paul Zulpa.

Absent: Tom Gormley, Donna Kohanowski, Bob Ratzenberger, Mike Novak, Don Trella and Drew Gwiazdoski.

Present: Alternate: No alternates were present at this time.

Absent: Committee Members: Mike Cunningham, Tim Drakeley, Tom Gormley, Donna Kohanowski, Paul Zulpa and Alternates Mike Novak, Don Trella and Drew Gwiazdoski

1) **Call to Order by Chairman:** Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2) **Seating of Alternates:** No alternates present

3) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Cunningham asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which they did.

4) Recognition of Guests:

*First Selectman Perkinson said that a Republican alternate is needed for the Commission for Seniors and it will be taken care of tonight as Burt Stevens has put in an application. There are also openings on the Board of Assessment Appeals for a Republican, Historic Commission for a Democrat, and two spots for the Shade Tree Commission that can be either a Republican or a Democrat.

*The Town Budgets are due to the First Selectman's office by next Wednesday.

* First Selectman Perkinson and Karen Remington Hughes are not able to stay long at tonight's meeting due to the fact that the Town Committee moved their meeting night to the second Thursday of the month and they both have a meeting to go to on that night every month. She mentioned that another night would be good for them. Chairman Cunningham said he would look into changing the meeting night.

*State Representative Karen Remington Hughes said that she attended a Connecticut Conference Municipality Meeting this morning. They had a list of their priorities which are priorities for most of the towns in Connecticut. This meeting is for selectman, first selectman and legislators. They discussed increasing EPS funding for the towns so things will be more equitable, The number of days to conduct Early Voting and to increase State funding to carry out the requirements of Early Voting, increasing days to accept trash at the facilities and or put more energy plants in Connecticut, caps on damages for municipal liabilities, capping any negligent claims to \$250,000, providing more funding for mass transport, modify sick leave changes, increase tax abatement for affordable housing, support and enable legislation to broaden municipal options for resiliency claims.

*State Central Representative John Hughes said that at the State Central meeting they instigated a chair's meeting once a quarter in December. They had about 50 to 60 percent of the Republican Town Committees in the State at the meeting. It was a meet and greet and they talked about their issues. This year it is about getting the vote out for municipal elections, capturing voter ID information at State wide races, and fundraising. State Central will be meeting again in March, 2025 to discuss momentum in getting together and trying to improve the efficiencies and sharing among the local Republican Town Committees.

4) Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Chairman Cunningham entertained a motion to approve the Republican Town Committee meeting minutes of November 7, 2024. The motion was made by Committee member Paul Luchetti and seconded by Committee member Dennis Roberts. There were no comments or adjustments to the minutes. All were in favor of approving the minutes with no nays. **Unanimously Approved.**

6) Officer's Reports:

a) Chairman – Chairman Cunningham thanked everyone for their support and the good job of turning things around for the WRTC in 2024. He thanked everyone for their participation and support including the Committee chairman of for their efforts in fundraising, candidate recruitment scholarship, and the media. He is looking forward to 2025 and to January 20th for the good things that will be happening. He also mentioned that someone is interested in joining the WRTC who is new to town and hopes he will come to the next meeting.

b) Vice Chairman – Vice Chairman Luchetti asked John Lewis if he will start developing events so the Committee knows where it is going as it goes forward.

c) Treasurer: Treasurer Stevens reported that things have been very quiet since the election. He has moved only \$100 and the WRTC now has just over \$2,200 in the account with no other expenses pending.

d) Secretary: Secretary Mackey reported that between the last meeting in November and January 7, 2025 the Democrats had 66 new voters, Republicans 98 new voters, Unaffiliated 182 new voters and Other 1 new voter or a total of 347 new voters. The number of voters in the Town of Woodbury as of January 7, 2025 is 7503 which includes Democrats with 1984 voters, Republicans 2506, Unaffiliated 2,849 and Other 164. **Please see the chart attached to these minutes.**

7) Committee Reports:

a) Candidate Recruitment: Chairman Roberts said that all officials were contacted and at this point he knows of no resignations or people leaving their positions. He said his committee is having a hard time recruiting candidates for positions. He said he got side swiped tonight because he and Susan Shepard had worked hard to get a candidate for the Commission for Seniors and no one had contacted him to tell him that Burt Stevens had offered to do the job. Burt Stevens and First Selectman Perkinson apologized for not letting him know. From now on when people are interested or know of someone that is interested in a Town Board or Commission John Lewis suggested that Chairman Roberts be copied on the email.

b) Scholarship: Chairman Perkinson reported that the Woodbury Scholarship Fund now has a balance of \$10,180.93. The scholarships opened on January 1, 2025 and will close on April 1, 2025 and all applications are to be made on line and can be accessed on the Woodbury Scholarship Fund website. Decisions are made by the Fund Selection Committee in mid-April and the resulting announcements are made at the Nonnewaug High School Scholarship Night typically held in mid may. **Application:** The purpose of the Committee is to award a scholarship of \$ 500 to a Woodbury graduating student. The student should be pursuing his or her education in political science history and/or for public service. He or she must prove written rational in order to qualify. At one time applicants had to write a 250-word essay but that did not work and no one applied. This year they have to submit three or four lines with a rational. The award for 2025 is for \$900. Last year it was not awarded for one year so the Town Committee agreed to have the extra money spread out and for the next several years it will be \$600. Chairman Perkinson read a letter from the Guidance Department at Nonnewaug High School explaining procedures for the award.

c) Fund Raising/Events: *The November 5th. Event that was held under a tent was a huge success.

*Chairman Lewis suggested doing a raffle again some time from April to June only this time he will make a schedule of people who will be selling tickets for four hours on a Saturday or Sunday. He thought that the raffle winner could be announced on Juneteenth as on that date the WRTC has the bandstand at North Green for a little party that will be open to the public.

*A picnic at the Hollow on September 20th. has already been scheduled.

*A movie night open at the Woodbury Library. This will be with a Conservative documentary.

* Bingo in the winter, maybe in March, with just Republicans at the Fire House.

Chairman Lewis asked that anyone that has any other ideas or would like to help please let him know.

d) Media – Public Information – Technology: Chairman Zulpa went over his Technology Committee Report and discussed it with the Committee. The report includes statistics from the following: *Facebook which had 13 posts in the last 30 days with 1,406 viewings and 245 followers. *The WRTC Web page which is being updated to the most current version and the upcoming events especially important town meetings that are being updated weekly *Anedot Programming is sunsetting their Campaign product and moving to Action Pages which has three functions – Donations, Events, and Leads. When it is migrated Chairman Zulpa will go in and make any adjustments that are needed. Ticket events will be able to be sold on this site.

The Technology Committee Report from Chairman Zulpa is attached to these minutes.

8) New Business:

* An advisory Board in Town to help the Board of Selectman in selecting technology in things like Cyber Security would be helpful. Also, a possible combining of software around town for different Boards and Commissions to help pull the town together and make it easier for residents in town. It was brought up that at this time all members of Boards and Commissions have to attend the meetings in person. An idea was suggested to have the town meetings done electronically so members of Boards and Commissions and every citizen in Town can attend and participate from home if they want to. This was discussed at length. John Hughes said it would save the Town time and money and Mike Cunningham was in favor of updating technology to move the Town forward.

9) Old Business:

*** Discussion and Vote on the Woodbury Republican Town Committee's By-Laws.**

The changes were previously sent to the Committee to be voted on. This was discussed. The changes in By-Laws must be submitted to the State first and then to the Town. Some of the things in the current By-Laws have been removed but all have to be in favor in order for the changes to pass. Chairman Cunningham asked if there were any more discussion and there was none.

Motion: Paul Zulpa made a motion to approve the By-Laws as written and John Lewis seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the WRTC By-laws with no one opposed and no abstentions. The motion was passed. **Unanimously Approved.**

10) Privilege of the Floor: There is a Board of Education meeting coming up and John Lewis wants to meet with some people to try to get new people on the Board of Education that are business people. Dennis Roberts has a possible candidate to run for the Board of Education but he is a teacher. Also, the current Chairman of the Board of Education has been on the board for a long time. Several names were discussed for this Board and John Lewis will get names he has to CRC Chairman Dennis Roberts and they will talk with Chris Matta who is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education to get his ideas.

* Paul Zulpa announced that he will become a Candidate for the First Selectman position in 2025. His Campaign Chairman is Bill Hoey and his Treasurer is Stan Love. **Please read Paul Zulpa's letter to the Town Committee that is included with these minutes.**

Chairman Cunningham suggested the Town Committee wait to see if First Selectman Perkinson is planning to run again. The Caucus is in July/2025. Rob Scott felt that the Committee should wait to see what First Selectman Perkinson is going to do. Burt Stevens felt that First Selectman Perkinson is entitled to the Committee's support. So, we will see how it goes.

11) Adjournment: Committee member Tim Drakeley adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Mackey, Secretary

VOTER REGISTRATION SUMMARY					
DATE	DEMOCRATIC	REPUBLICAN	UNAFFILIATED	OTHER	Total New Voters
1/30/2024	1929	2427	2653	159	
7/30/2024	1897	2390	2642	160	
8/31/2024	1918	2408	2667	163	
9/3/2024	1918	2408	2667	163	7156
10/1/2024	1939	2420	2699	163	
1/7/2025	1984	2506	2849	164	7503
9-3-24 to 1-7-2025	66+	98+	182+	1+	347

Facebook Statistics

13 posts in last 30 days

Page overview

Last 28 days

[Create post](#)

Views i	1,406
Reach i	1,021
Content interactions i	31
Follows i	1

[See more](#)

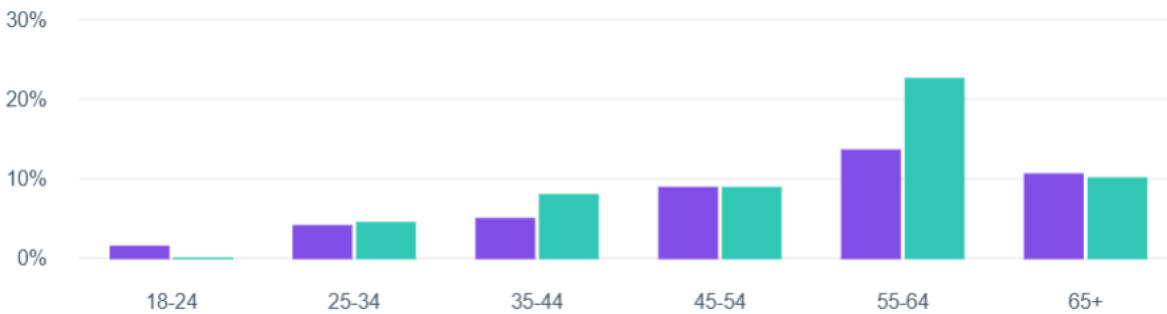
Demographics

Lifetime

Followers i	245
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Age and gender

- Men 44.80%
- Women 55.20%



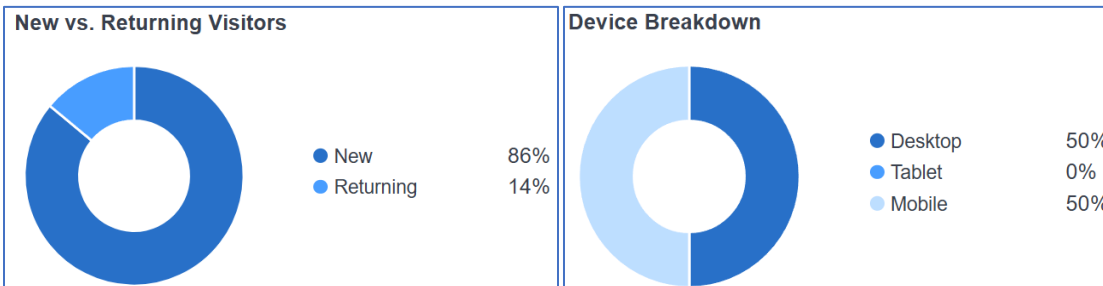
Webpage Statistics

Bylaws Updated to most current version

Upcoming Events (essentially important town meetings) updated weekly

Vote page modified with tentative election schedule.

Sessions ⓘ 34 ↑ 14% vs. Previous 30 Days	Pageviews ⓘ 78 ↑ 53% vs. Previous 30 Days
Avg. Session ... ⓘ 51s ↓ 20% vs. Previous 30 Days	Total Users ⓘ 28 ↓ 4% vs. Previous 30 Days
Bounce Rate ⓘ 20.6% ↓ 39% vs. Previous 30 Days	New Users ⓘ 24 ↓ 4% vs. Previous 30 Days



Anedot Programming

1. Anedot is sunsetting the Campaigns product and moving to Action Pages.
2. Action Pages has everything Campaigns did plus more (timers, countdowns, customizable calls-to-action, multi-funds, QR code generator, and more).
3. Actions pages have 3 functions: Donation, Event, Lead
4. Schedule:
 - Thursday, January 30th - Customers can no longer change campaign page statuses
 - Tuesday, February 4th - All active Campaigns pages and requested paused pages are duplicated to Action Pages
 - Tuesday, February 19th - Campaigns product will be sunset and no longer accessible
5. Four Campaigns currently active:

	Campaign Name & Identifier	Status	Sub	Form URL	Raised
View Edit Clone	Family Night SEEC Compliant Form	•	0	/family-night	\$110.00
View Edit Clone	General Fund	•	0	/donate	\$1,375.00
View Edit Clone	Raffle SEEC Compliant Form raffle	•	0	/raffle	\$180.00
View Edit Clone	SEEC Compliant Form	•	0	/contribute	\$1,525.00

6. Actions:
 - a. Allow Anedot to migrate the campaigns so no data is lost
 - b. Verify campaigns have migrated correctly. Make changes if necessary
 - c. Update contribute URL in website if necessary

Paul Zulpá's Letter

A year ago, in a WRTC meeting at the Senior Center, Mike Cunningham said to me that he heard a rumor I was going to run for First selectman and I told him that was false – and that statement was true – the thought never crossed my mind. Since that time, I have been approached by several people from both sides of the aisle who have noticed my work on the Board of Finance and suggested I consider running for First Selectman.

After many long discussions with my family, I have decided to become a candidate for the First Selectman position in the 2025 election. I have a campaign manager and a campaign treasurer that have agreed to support my candidacy.

We face many challenges, from maintaining our infrastructure to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. But I am confident that together, we can overcome these challenges. I am committed to working tirelessly to protect and improve our community.

I believe in a government that listens to its people, that is transparent in its actions, and that is accountable for its decisions. As First Selectman, I will ensure that these beliefs underpin all that we do.

I am asking for your trust and your support. Know that I will lead with honesty and integrity. Know that I will always put the needs of our community first. Know that I will work every day to make Woodbury a better place for all of us.