



Woodbury Republican Town Committee Minutes – April 10, 2025

P.O. Box 255, Woodbury, CT 06798

Emergency Services Building – 7:00 PM

Present: Michael Cunningham, Bob DeLuca, Tim Drakeley, Donna Kohanowski, John Lewis, Paul Luchetti, Nancy Mackey, Peter Perkinson, Dennis Roberts, Burt Stevens, and Paul Zulpa.

Absent: Tom Gormley, John Hughes, Rob Scott, Don Trella and Alternates: Mike Novak 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 to be seated.

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Recognition of Guests:

* Chairman Cunningham recognized First Selectman Perkinson. First Selectman Perkinson thanked everyone on the Board especially Chairman Cunningham for announcing, in a professional way, that she would not be seeking reelection for another term as First Selectman. Chairman Cunningham thanked First Selectman Perkinson for her service to the Town.

*First Selectman Perkinson also reminded everyone that April 21st. is a public hearing on the Budget, among other things.

* State Representative Karen Reddington-Hughes said that it was a very interesting day today when the House convened as they had to vote again on whether Marissa Gillett was going to be appointed the head of Pura. All but one Republican voted that they did not want her to return. However, because the Republicans are a minority party she will return anyway. They are also looking to put two other people on that Board.

*There was a Middle School Essay Contest for Woman's history month and there were two winners.

*There was a celebration for Arethusa because they won for the best cheese in America for a second time.

*Also, there was a Question-and-answer session in region #20. The Governor was there and answered questions about the school district as they are having problems with regionalization.

*Question by Paul Luchetti – Is Eversource going to return funds to their customers? Karen Reddington-Hughes said that

*Eversource would like to return funds but Pura does not want this.

* John Lewis had a question on prepaid Daycare and Pre-School and Karen Remington-Hughes said that there are no funds right now to fund this.

*Chairman Cunningham introduced Alan and Carline Diamond. Also introduced was Mark Crane a candidate for school board from Bethlehem discussed his history and opinions with the members of WRTC.

5) Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Chairman Cunningham entertained a motion to approve the Republican Town Committee minutes of March 13, 2025. Secretary Mackey made the following correction to the minutes that she had received from Dennis Roberts: Page

#2, #7 under Motion: 2nd paragraph last sentence. Chairman Roberts filled Bob Ratzenberger's seat with Peter Perkinson **until someone is appointed**. There were no other corrections. A motion to approve the minutes with the change was made by Dennis Roberts and Paul Luchetti seconded the motion. all were in favor of approving the minutes. Chairman Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dennis Roberts made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and it was seconded by Paul Luchetti. All were in favor. **Unanimously Approved.**

6) Officer's Reports:

a) Chairman: There will be five delegates to the State Central Committee they are John Lewis, Bob DeLuca, Mike Cunningham, John Hughes and Paul Luchetti. The Convention is scheduled for May 13th.

b) Vice Chairman: Vice Chairman Luchetti thanked Dennis Roberts, Chairman of CRC, for the good job he is doing as Chairman of CRC. He also thanked the membership Committee for the swift approval of the memberships and thanked Peter Perkinson for stepping in to replace a former member of the CRC committee.

c) Treasurer: Treasurer Stevens said there were no changes in the last month.

d) Secretary: – Secretary Mackey said she had no report on the Voter Registration Summary for this month as the Registrar's office was closed for three days while the Registrars attended a conference. It was decided to wait until next month for a report.

7) Committee Reports:

a) Candidate Recruitment:

* Chairman of CRC Dennis Roberts introduced the latest candidate to become a member of the Woodbury Republican Town Committee. He is Alan M. Diamond who was at the meeting with his wife Carline Diamond. They are new residents of Woodbury. Dennis Roberts read information on Alan Diamond and said that Mr. Diamond had been unanimously approved for membership by the CRC Committee. There was no other discussion.

Motion: Chairman Roberts made a motion to accept Mr. Alan Diamond as a member and alternate of the WRTC. The motion was seconded by Burt Stevens. All were in favor. **Approved.**

* Chairman Roberts also asked Alan Diamond to fill out a Town of Woodbury Board of Commission Committee Action Form.

* Chairman Roberts said that CRC will be verifying candidates that are scheduled for re-election after they receive updated information from the Town Clerk.

b) Scholarship:

Chairman Peter Perkinson explained that Nonnewaug High School takes the Scholarship applications they receive and forwards them to the Woodbury Scholarship fund for their decisions. The Scholarship on behalf of the WRTC is for \$600.00. This year there were many applications for the WRTC Scholarship, in part because criteria for the applications was modified from previous years. This helped get more students to apply. The applications closed on April 1, 2025, Screening began on April 2, 2025, and selection of the recipients will be on Wednesday April 23, 2025. The award from the WRTC will be given out on May 8, 2025. Pater Perkinson will be talking to Mary Jane Travers, President of the Woodbury Scholarship Fund to ask that Chairman Cunningham present the Scholarship as he did last year.

* Peter Perkinson mentioned and thanked Dennis Roberts for the terrific job he is doing on the Candidate Recruitment Committee and John Lewis also complimented Dennis on what a great job he is doing.

c) Fund Raising/Events

*Chairman John Lewis said that the Superintendent of Schools, Brian Murphy, will come in and do a symposium with the WRTC and Bethlehem. The DTC did a Zoom meeting with about 9 or 10 people last night for about 20 minutes. The WRTC Zoom Meeting will be going on for about one hour and a half.

* On September 20th. a picnic is scheduled.

*Chairman Lewis was asked if we would like a speaker from Turning Point. John Lewis will look into that.

* There will be a raffle and the drawing for it will be after the Municipal Election.

* Chairman Lewis will be sending out emails to committee members with the schedule for selling the raffle tickets. He is hoping to sell tickets at LaBonnes, Dottie's, and Ace Hardware.

d) Media – Public Information – Technology:

* Please look at the Face Book Statistics which are part of these minutes.

8) New Business:

*The Commission for Seniors is having a round table discussion on April 30th. at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center. The subject will be on Woodbury's Transportation Desert.

*Burt Stevens announced that he has resigned as chairman of the Charter Revision Committee as it has become too political. Dennis Roberts said that he was disappointed that he had resigned. Burt explained his reasons for resigning.

9) Old Business:

*** Discussion and vote on the Woodbury Republican Town Committee's By-Laws:**

Burt Stevens sent the WRTC Board a copy of the changes of the By-Laws from 2008 to 2023 and a separate sheet with the changes between WRTC By-Laws of 2008 and 2023. The Commission spent time discussing the by-Laws and decided that they would return to the 2008 By-Laws because the 2023 By-Laws were filled with things that were not important to the WRTC. Burt Steven's suggestion was that the Commission return to the By-Laws of 2008. In order to go back to the 2008 By-Laws, the By-Laws will need to be finalized then Chairman Cunningham will need to sign them and give them to the Town of Woodbury. They then can be re-submitted to the State of Connecticut.

*Chairman Cunningham then asked if the Commission would like to discuss going from 6 to ten alternates. This was discussed.

Motion: Burt Stevens made a motion on the floor to change the Woodbury Republican By-Laws back to the 2008 By-Laws with the only change to section 2.2 which would change the Alternates from 6 to 10. It was seconded by John Lewis. More discussion on the change from 6 to 10 Alternates. Chairman Cunningham asked if everyone was in favor of the motion and there were five yes votes in favor and two votes not in favor. **Approved.**

10) Privilege of the Floor:

Chairman Cunningham feels that Lisa Wright, the Web Master from REIFY, is very professional. It is felt by Burt Stevens that the most economical way to go would be to go with Tier #2. After discussing the costs and the WRTC finances it was decided to go with Tier #2. Burt Stevens said that if we wanted to in six months, we could go to Tier #1. Chairman Cunningham asked for any more comments and there were none.

***Motion:** Burt Stevens made a motion to go with Tier #2. It was seconded by Paul Luchetti. Chairman Cunningham asked if there was any discussion and there was. After the discussion Chairman Cunningham then asked if there was any further discussion and there was none. He then asked if all were in favor. All were in favor with no nays. **Approved.**

* A Fund-Raising letter will be discussed at the next meeting.

11) Adjournment: Chairman Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Mackey, Secretary