



Woodbury Republican Town Committee Minutes – September 11, 2025

P.O. Box 255, Woodbury, CT 06798

Emergency Services Building – 7:00 PM

Present: Chairman Mike Cunningham, Bob Deluca, Tim Drakeley, John Hughes, John Lewis, Peter Perkinson, Dennis Roberts, Rob Scott, Burt Stevens, Paul Zulpa Alternates: Tom Bennedetto, Drew Gwiazdoski

Absent: Tom Gormley, Donna Kohanowski, Paul Luchetti, Don Trella and Alternates: Alan Diamond and Mike Novak.

1) Call to Order by Chairman:

Chairman Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2) Seating of Alternates:

Chairman Cunningham seated alternates Tom Bennedetto and Drew Gwiazdoski

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Everyone stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Cunningham asked for a moment of silence for Iryna Zarutka the woman who was murdered, Charles Kirk who was shot yesterday, and for the 9/11 first responders.

4) Recognition of Guests:

*First Selectman Barbara Perkinson reported that the 9/11 ceremony that was held this morning at the Hollow was very moving.

*Karen Reddington-Hughes said that the State is looking into a lot of the things that went on with home schooling. The Democrats have prepared bills to limit the ability to home school. One of the bills would have the children that are being home schooled be vaccinated even though they will not be in schools. It will be interesting to see what happens. It is a good opportunity for the Republicans to bring forth the problems of DCF and figure ways to solve it instead of throwing the home-schooled kids under the bus. Also, if the children are forced to enroll in the school system, then unenroll it affects the tax-payer's taxes. Children who are in private school are also counted in case they come back to public school.

5) Approval of the Minutes:

Paul Zulpa made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded. There were two corrections to the minutes. Page #1 at the top. The spelling of Karen **Reddington**-Hughes and on page #1 under #4 - third paragraph from the bottom the town has six OSHA building violations. Chairman Cunningham asked if everyone was in favor of the corrections and they were. Approved.

6) Officer's Reports:

a) Chairman:

Chairman Cunningham said he was affected by what happened yesterday to Charles Kirk and is questioning what is going on in this country. He hopes that Charles Kirk's mission will expand and opens the eyes of young adults.

*Things are moving forward on the invitations to the Event honoring Barbara Perkinson in January 2026.

*Chairman Cunningham said that he and Karen Reddington-Hughes are working on a Palm card for the current campaign slate.

*Karen Reddington Hughes and Chairman Cunningham discussed the palm card with the WRTC and how important it is to get them ready quickly.

*A group picture of the candidates for the palm card is scheduled for Monday, September 15th. at 6:00 at the Shove Building. It is planned to order 1500 Palm cards as soon as the cards are finished.

Motion: A motion was made by Burt Stevens and seconded by John Lewis to approve the expenditure of 1500 Palm cards for the campaign. All were in favor. **Unanimously Approved.**

* Paul Zulpa asked about a Meet and Greet Event, and it was discussed.

*Dates for Flag waving and campaigning at the Transfer station will be decided on by Paul Zulpa and Karen Reddington-Hughes.

*Chairman Cunningham is drafting a fundraising letter and will send a copy out to the executive committee. There was a discussion on how to send out the fundraising letter and Tim Drakeley said he knows of a firm that will stuff and send the letter when it is done. Burt Stevens asked if we have stationery to send the letters on and the Town Committee does. It was suggested that all the names of the WRTC Committee be put on the stationery and Paul Zulpa said that he will work to do that.

b) Vice Chairman:

No Vice Chairman's Report as Vice Chairman Luchetti was not able to at the meeting.

c) Treasurer:

Treasurer Burt Stevens reported the following for September 2025:

The month began with	\$3,280.61
Contributions were	\$20.00
Expenses were	\$1.10
Month ended with	\$3,299.51

d) Secretary:

The Secretary said she would include the Voter total's report when she sends out these minutes for 9/11.

*** Please see the Secretary's two reports that are included with these minutes.**

7) Committee Reports:

a) Candidate Recruitment:

Chairman Roberts thanked Rob Scott and Paul Zulpa for getting the slate paperwork for the election all re-done and submitted to the Town Clerk.

Chairman Dennis Roberts reported the following openings for Boards and Commissions and asked for some help finding candidate for these positions.

Park and Recreation – Ann Marie Matta is a candidate for this position.

Board of Assessment Appeals – one alternate needed.

Board of Finance - one Democrat and one Republican needed. Chairman Cunningham said that going into November there will also be two more positions open as Paul Zulpa and Richard Coates will need a replacement as they are running for office.

Retirement Pension Board - one Republican needed.

Shade Tree and Sidewalk – two open positions

Waste Advisory and Ad Hoc Committee – one position opened.

Chairman Roberts also reported that Alternate Diamond is planning to be back to the Committee soon.

He also said that – Ernest Werner is thinking of joining the board as an alternate.

b) Scholarship:

Chairman Peter Perkinson said that there is no report at this time.

c) Fund Raising/Events –

Chairman John Lewis reported that \$3,300 of raffle tickets have been sold with \$1,200 more to put in the bank.

There are three more raffle sales planned on September 13th, September 27th. and November 1st.

Also discussed were the following fundraisers that are planned:

*WRTC picnic on September 20th. at the Hollow with setup at 1:00 PM.

*Food Drive on November 1st. along with ticket sales.

*Chairman Lewis also suggested a Meet and Greet at Dottie's Restaurant sometime soon.

*Chairman Lewis spoke with Chris Matta and the WRTC is down of another Budget Symposium in the Spring.

d) Media – Public Information – Technology:

Website:

Chairman Zulpa discussed the following updates on the website:

1) July 21, 2025 - Caucus Meeting minutes file.

2) Replace the July 10, 2025 - Minutes with the corrected value

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- 3) Add August 14, 2025 Agenda and Minutes
- 4) Add September 11, 2025 Agenda
- 5) Update the Upcoming events with the most current information; update WRTC Meeting with next meeting info.
- 6) Update the Liberty picnic under events to remove conflicting information.

Website Statistics for the last 30 days:

116 sessions which is down 15% from last month, 240 page views which are up 20% from last month, 87% new viewers, 13% returning and the peak day had 12 unique sessions average day is approximately 4%.

Website questions:

- 1) Do we want to clean up the pictures that are going across the top? The answer is yes.
- 2) Do we want to restore the Endorsed slate to the Elections Page as well as the list of the election calendar? The answer from Chairman Cunningham is yes.

Facebook:

1,598 views up 194%. 44 interactions up 389% and 8 posts made in the last 28 days. Of the views 56% were non followers of the WRTC and 44% were followers.

Top content was Liberty Picnic with 435 views.

Dennis Roberts – Suggested we try to do something to attract younger Republicans and independents to our website by recognizing the death of Charlie Kirk.

John Lewis suggested that the WRTC be more aggressive and post everything that has to do with the Republican party directly on to the WRTC Facebook site so everyone can share it from there.

8) New Business:

John Hughes update on State Central

- 1) Encourages the WRTC to reach out to voters, especially Unaffiliated voters
 - 2) The Republicans are trying to be more aggressive in 2026, and they are starting a communications campaign called Make Connecticut Better to focus on specific issues like public safety, taxes, home rule, and things that are in the news.
- *Tim Drakeley was thanked for both he and Joyce's contributions to both Jane Doe no More and their Food Bank contributions.
- *Burt Stevens said that on October 9th. at 7:00 PM at the Woodbury Senior Community Center there will be an informational meeting with the Northwest Council of Governors for a Dial a Ride which is a Town issue that they are trying to activate.
- *Paul Zulpa said that the Bethlehem RTC asked if the WRTC would like to attend a fundraiser on September 27th. at 4:00 at George Rahkamp's house with a rain date of September 28th. He also asked about plans for an election headquarters for the coming election.

Motion: Burt Stevens is the conduit Between Mike and the WRTC for Paul's campaign and will report back to the WRTC. John Lewis made the motion, and it was seconded by Tim Drakeley. A Discussion was had. No other discussion. All were in favor. **Approved.**

Paul Zulpa asked if the WRTC is planning on a swearing in ceremony for the winners of the election. Paul Zulpa will speak with the Democrats so a decision can be made.

9) Old Business:

***Event honoring Barbara Perkinson's Service to the Town**

The committee is working on this.

10) Privilege of the Floor:

None at this time.

11) Adjournment:

Chairman Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Mackey, Secretary