



Woodbury Republican Town Committee Minutes – December 11, 2025

P.O. Box 255, Woodbury, CT 06798

Emergency Services Building – 7:00 PM

Present: Chairman Mike Cunningham, Bob Deluca, John Hughes, John Lewis, Paul Luchetti, Nancy Mackey, Dennis Roberts, Rob Scott, Burt Stevens, Don Trella. Alternate Tom Benedetto.

Absent: Tom Gormley, Donna Kohanowski, Tim Drakeley and Alternate: Drew Gwiazdoski,

1) Call to Order by Chairman:

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

2) Seating of Alternates:

Alternate Tom Benedetto was seated,

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Recognition of Guests:

First Selectman Paul Zulpa reported the following:

- * The Town Budget should be together by December 15th.
- * Three lights burned out at the Senior Community Center and they ended up replacing all fourteen with LED lights.
- * The Route 317 bridge will be closed starting on January 12, 2026 for an undetermined time.
- * The State will replace Speed Limit signs on thirty-one roads with no cost to the Town.
- * Dennis Roberts asked about the fence at Hollow Park. First Selectman Zulpa said it was approved in July with a permit the end of September. The ground froze after that and now It is expected to be done in March, 2026.

State Representative: Karen Reddington Hughes reported:

The biggest thing now at the state level is the housing bill and she felt that right now the town needs to do its own thing to protect itself. The town could protect itself by doing its homework on inland wetlands. She said unless it is something really egregious the bill is going to go forward. Towns in the state are putting together committees so they will have some sort of affordable housing plan because if they don't do that the state will do it for them. The committee discussed, at some length, different ways to approach this problem.

5) Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Cunningham entertained a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2025. Commissioner Burt Stevens made a motion to approve the WRTC minutes of November 13, 2025 and the motion was seconded by Paul Luchetti. There were no corrections or additions. All were in favor. **Unanimously Approved.**

6) Officers' Reports:

a) **Chairman** - No report at this time.

b) Vice Chairman - *Paul Luchetti said that Woodbury is the largest Republican Town of all 169 Towns in the State. He also said that the election voting turnout was disappointing as not many Republicans voters came out to vote. He felt that it is necessary for the WRTC to figure out a way to get the votes out.

* It was suggested that due to the WRTC terms which are coming up in January it would be good to have the Committee sit down and formulate a plan on how to approach the next two years.

* It was suggested by Burt Stevens that the Committee try to get more interesting ideas together that will attract younger, more active people interested in this committee and the town.

c) Treasurer – Burt Stevens reported that the balance on hand in the check book as of December 11, 2025 is now \$1,138.83. He said his files agree with the SEEC totals. He also suggested that an audit committee be appointed to review the annual finances of the WRTC and report back to the Committee every year.

d) Secretary – Nancy Mackey reported that as of 12/10/2025 registered voters in the town of Woodbury totaled 1916 Democrats, 2,416 Republicans, 2,716 Unaffiliated, and 158 Others or a total of 7,206 registered voters. She also said she would send out the break-down for the last year when she sends out the minutes.

7) Committee Reports:

a) Candidate Recruitment -Chairman Dennis Roberts said that we have lost Peter Perkinson and Paul Zulpa on the committee. He said he has asked Tom Benedetto to take one of the seats. Chairman Roberts called for a motion to accept Tom Benedetto as a full committee member.

Motion: Burt Stevens made a motion to accept Tom Benedetto as a full member of the WRTC and the motion was seconded by Paul Luchetti. There was no discussion and all were in favor. **Unanimously Approved.**

Chairman Roberts went on to report that he has an application for a new member to the committee from Lee Werner.

Motion: A motion was entertained to accept Lee Werner as a new member of the town committee. The motion was made by Paul Luchetti and seconded by John Hughes. There was no discussion. All were in favor. **Unanimously Approved.**

Chairman Roberts said he had received an application for the Retirement Pension Board position. His name is Gary Neilson of 305 Old Town Farm Road and he has filled out the application for the town. His information is quite long and Chairman Roberts said he is really overqualified for the job. Dennis Roberts read some of his application.

Motion: Chairman Cunningham made a motion that we move to accept Gary Neilson for a position on the Pension Board right now and the motion to approve was seconded by Rob Scott. There was no discussion and all were in favor. **Unanimously approved.**

Dennis further reported that Donna Kohanowski has resigned and will not be attending the Town Committee meetings any more.

Also Chairman Roberts said that he needed applicants for the following Board and Commission positions: Park and Recreation, Board of Finance, Public Building Commission, Pension Board, Sidewalk Committee, Ad Hoc Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

b) Scholarship – No report yet.

c) Fund Raising/Events – John Lewis reported that we ended up to close to \$6,000 in tickets that were sold this year. They did that with only \$400.00 from contributing members. Paul Zulpa and Karen Reddington Hughes each sold twenty tickets. All other tickets were sold at LaBonnes and Dotties by John Lewis and Paul Zulpa.

* John Lewis talked about the people that had helped with the picnic and said that Charmaine Samoska worked hard on the picnic making signs etc. and she is not a member of the WRTC. He said that more people on the Town Committee need to get involved in Fund Raising Events and we need to work as a group and also as individuals if we are going to

grow. The discussion continued on ways to get people involved. Dennis Roberts suggested if you have things to say that are negative, hold off and call an Executive Session where it could be discussed with just the Town Committee.

d) Media – Public Information – Technology – No report at this time. Paul Zulpa is no longer the Chairman and a new Chairman needs to be found right away.

8) New Business:

- * State Central Representative John Hughes – John was elected State Central Representative and he went over the state calendar for this coming year.

- * There is a primary coming up in February, the new Republican Town Committee starts in March. There is a convention in May for the state Representatives and state senators. with a State Convention at Mohegan Sun in the Middle of May. After that is the campaign season. Next year there will be a lot of events that will be facilitated by the RTC.

- * There is a meet and greet for the governor's race next Tuesday night at 7:00 PM. John will get the information to Mike Cunningham.

- * Woodbury Republican Town Caucus – The caucus should be held between January 6th and 13th . It was decided by the Committee that the caucus will be on the 8th at 7:00 PM. at the Emergency Services Building.

- * Chairman Cunningham has a Zoom meeting training session on how to properly conduct a caucus on January 16th and 17th. and there will be a meeting at Mike Cunningham's house on 12/30 to discuss the caucus.

- * Legal notice has to be in the newspaper at least 5 days prior to the caucus and Mike will take care of that.

- * Chairman Cunningham announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the Town Committee in 2026.

***Calendar for 2026**

The calendar was discussed and everyone seemed fine with the dates.

9) Old Business:

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

Chairman Cunningham is working on the 1754 House for a party honoring Barbara Perkinson on Saturday, January 24th. Mike will be sending out invitations. There is room for between 50 and 75 people and the menu has been picked out with a cost of probably \$70 to \$75.00 per person. There will be speakers at the party. Burt Stevens said he would get a gift from Woodbury Pewter for Barbara.

- * Dennis Roberts requested that the By-Laws that have been ready for some time be submitted to the Town Clerk immediately. Mike Cunningham said he will take care of it.

10) Privilege of the Floor:

- * Secretary Mackey read an email from Stanton Love thanking the WRTC for its approval of his membership to the Woodbury Board of Finance.

11) Adjournment:

The WRTC meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Mackey, Secretary