

PDTC MINUTES
January 24, 2022 via Zoom

1. Call to order @ 7:05 PM by chair Nick Vegliante.

Attending members: Nick Vegliante, Anne Sabrowski, Susan Hotchkiss, Karen Stockton, Melissa Lennon, Gerry Grabarek, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Joanne, Eisenhard; Alternates: Kayla Thompson, Linda Christensen, Teresa Eickel

Excused: Sean Nugent

Absent: Deborah Grabarek, Pauline Andruskiewicz, Leigh Pappas

Guests: Megan Gallant, Jonathan Perloe, Andrew Stockton, John Warburg, Josh Elliott

Motion by Anne Sabrowski to seat alternates Linda Christensen and Teresa Eickel; second by Melissa Lennon; vote unanimous.

2. Minutes of the November 22 meeting and the January 4 caucus were reviewed. Caucus minutes were amended to rename as Preston Democratic Caucus. Linda Christensen moved to accept minutes as amended; second by Anne Sabrowski; vote unanimous with one abstention (Melissa Lennon)

3. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Karen Stockton reported no change in balance from previous report: \$934.64.

4. New Business

a. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Presentation: Guest Jonathan Perloe provided a brief power point presentation on Ranked Choice Voting, a system in contrast to Connecticut's current system of Plurality Voting (single choice: "winner take all"). This system is currently employed in some states for local or state contests, and in a couple states for all elections. In this system, a candidate would need a majority (50% +) of the vote to win.

DTC members and others interested in learning more or helping to build support for a study bill in the upcoming legislative session are invited to contact:

Jonathan at jon.voterchoicect@icloud.net or

John Warburg, of Voter Choice CT, at jwarbct@gmail.com; (203) 470-1526.

To sign up for Voter Choice email alerts: <https://bit.ly/voterchoice-ct-subscribe>

To learn more about RCV: <https://bit.ly/VC-CT-RCV-Explainer-2021>

b. SOTS (Secretary of State) race and candidates: Guest Josh Elliott presented himself as one of seven persons currently running for this office, with Denise Merrill stepping down.

c. Other 2022 Races: Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, resigned suddenly due to health concerns. Sean Scanlon is running for that position.

d. Municipal vacancies:

i. BOF update: Republican John Moulson filled the vacancy created when Cindy DuPointe resigned. Kayla Thompson has accepted the position of clerk in this committee.

ii. BOE: Republican Tom Turner, a well-respected committee member and Preston citizen recently passed away, so there is a vacancy on the committee.

iii. Other: None

5. Old Business: none

6. Updates from Town Officials

a. BoS: Sandra, first selectwoman, reported that the new finance director / school business manager Cindy Varricchio will start employment on January 31. Plans are underway to form a Building Committee to begin planning for town office and school related needs.

b. BoE: Guest Megan Gallant also mentioned the plans for the building committee.

c. PRA: Sandra stated that activity will soon be resuming at the State Hospital site.

d. P&Z: Teresa Eickel stated that committee was busy with Blue Water development application plans; an affordable housing survey had been sent out.

e. Youth Services: Melissa Lennon reported that they were looking for meeting space, possibly renting out space at the Tally Ho Mall; some programs being planned and / or currently active: birth to five, mental health needs for youth, youth center, book club. Melissa recognized Amy Brosnan and Sean Bresnan, a new resident trooper.

f. BoF: Kayla Thompson reported the committee is not yet in budget planning mode; looking at a 15 year road work plan.

7. State Central Update: Nick: Sarah Locke is to be the new executive director.

8. Public Comment: Gerry Grabarek is working with other community members to raise funds for a sportsmanship award to be presented to a boy and girl at graduation in honor of Tom Turner.

9. Motion to adjourn by Gerry Grabarek; second Sandra Allyn-Gauthier; vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hotchkiss, secretary