

Minutes of the GDCC October Monthly Meeting via Zoom
October 15th, 2020

Attendees included: Matt Murray, Deanna Fay Anaya, Jeremy McKeen, Patrick Thomas, Dru Tarr, Liz Murray, Dave Marro, Lacey Cominskey, Mary Kingsley, Lenore Maniaci, Karen Bell, Bill and Monica Nardone, Carla Christiansen. And, Bob Rutchik, Ron Wiggins, Jane Millitello, Linda Coleman. Also, Ann Margaret Ferrante, Nika Elugardo, Matt Chilliak, Jim Henderson. Others as noted in the meeting Zoom list.

Matt Murray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Voting note: Gloucester City Clerk has just put out the dates for voting and the times covered for early voting. Note Oct. 24th, last day for voter registration.

Campaign notes: Deanna Fay, phone banks. GDCC PBs – Wednesday and Sunday. Work with Markey on Tues and Thursday. Electeds sponsoring own PBs including Eileen Duff, Seth Moulton and Ann Margaret Ferrante.

Deanna: Standouts around the Cape planned for October 24th. See FB posts for details. 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Matt: Mega lawn signs in, 8x4 for placement on numbered routes for visibility.

New Members voted in:

- Marian Linden from Ward 5.
- John Taplett from Ward 4.

Lacey's Treasurer's Report:

2330 in, 2900 out.

Expenses: scholarships; signs.

Receipts: Donations, 2061 (ck); Act Blue, 330.

Account balances: (ck)

Savings: 5029

Checking: 4191

Total: 9220

Prospective financial items: fund raising letter after the election; possible new Senatorial election if Sen. Warren joins the administration, projected for June or thereabouts.

Karen Bell, Democratic Dialogue report: "Voting in Time of Covid", link on websites through election. Possibility of linking visual episodes with audio as podcasts.

Mary Kingsley, Public Service report: All public service organizations in our brochure need money for rent, food, etc. Many also need volunteers:

Action Inc., housing and energy issues. Homeless shelter. Help applying for energy assistance. Donate to the Cape Ann Emergency Fund. Ref. person, Karen George. Grace – volunteers to prepare meals.

North Shore () Project, ref. Sue Coviello at Help Project.

Open Door: Donations of non-perishable food. Volunteers to pack and deliver food. Second Glance: Salable housewares. Good clothes. Second Glance, by appointment.

Meals on Wheels – needs drivers.

Wellspring House. Works on housing, preparation for the work force. Need tutors and mentors. New bedding. Ref. mhardwick@wellspring.

Cape Ann Animal Aid, seeking in kind donations. Check their website for requests.

Soap Box Speaker, summary: Lacey Cominskey. Favors voting to endorse ballot initiatives. Standing up for something. Desires less polarization and for running positive campaigns.

Campaign Representatives:

Cam Charbonnier for MA Biden: Stats re calling: since August 28th, 28,000 shifts on the dialers. MA 3rd behind California and New York. Battleground states: Arizona, Texas, So.Carolina, Georgia.

Matt Chilliak for Seth Moulton. Seth will join us at the GDCC virtual Monthly Meeting on November 12th. Thanks for assist in primary. Seth supporting Christina Eckert for 2nd district. Involved in environmental work for the Merrimack River. Seth's legislation to establish a 988 number for mental health crises has passed the House and Senate.

Jim Henderson on Ranked Choice Voting: Elizabeth Warren and Maura Healy support RCV and did a video on it. Good ref. Bill Galvin in favor of RCV.

Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante (MA 5th): introduced Nika Elugardo, MA Rep (MA), who challenged and won primary over Ways and Means Chair, Sanchez. Rep. Elugardo is a graduate of MIT, BU Law and the Kennedy School of Government. She is a member of

Black and Latino groups. Rep. Elugardo's remarks this evening focused on the Policing Bill which after passage in the House and Senate is (as of October 15th) in Conference.

Over time there had been efforts to address Systemic Racism and Police training. Monthly meetings were held among various levels of officials. After the George Floyd incident, the meetings were upgraded to weekly meetings including Cong. Ayanna Pressley. The group decided to take up issues that could be addressed in two months before the July 31st deadline. They settled on four items with a federal focus; four with a state focus and two with a city/town focus.

Among the items selected were: (1) police certification and decertification. 46 states have certification. Russell Holmes worked with Gov. Baker on this. (2) Civil Service review. Protect rights of veterans. (3) Use of force. Of significance after Geo. Floyd incident.

Other items were offered beyond those identified in central planning and not part of the negotiations. Meetings with Chairman Gonzales (MA , Springfield, Committee ID) , Senator Spilka, Rep. DeLeo, and Gov. Baker garnered a commitment to stay with the terms originally agreed to and negotiated. Senator Brownsberger pushed for the addition of a qualified immunity term. The status of the latter was not clear relative to the legislation in conference as of October 15th.

Rep. Elugardo took questions:

Defunding? Rep. Elugardo does not use that term; she reframes it.

Where is policy being done well? Rep. Elugardo said the State Troopers are working on the Floyd situation. Rep. Elugardo spoke

to the one black woman in the troop who was positive in her comments.

Matt Murray, Ayanna Pressley has said that in the suburbs there are fewer police, more services. This view: we already have a model of what works.

[Rep. Elugardo gave a well done and enlightening presentation. It was an ongoing discussion when the George Floyd situation erupted and not just a spur of the moment idea. The group set goals to achieve important things but things that could be done in a time frame. It offers a model of how to address issues over which there is a lot of disagreement.]

Matt Murray – Chair update:

Phone banking is important. 18 days left. Joe Biden's internal polls not as optimistic as some public polls. Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida. If we don't crush DJT he will challenge the votes, especially the ballots.

Tip of the hat to Patrick Thomas and Dave Marro who are doing an excellent job as phone captains.

Stand out around Cape Ann – planned for October 24th.
[It was great!!!!]

Meeting adjourned.

Calendar: Election Day November 3rd.

Executive Committee Meeting, Monday, Nov. 2nd

November GDCC Monthly Meeting via Zoom, November 12th.

ECM 11/2/20