

Gloucester Democratic City Committee  
Monthly Meeting  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Via Zoom

18 attendees zoomed in. [Pres. Biden addressed the Nation in a speech in which there was some overlap with our meeting time. Assuming choices made for the President over the GDCC.]

Matt Murray, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30.

New members query yielded no requests to join the GDCC.

Speaker: Matt Chilliak from Seth Moulton's office brought us up to date on the Congressman's activities:

Rep. Moulton supported Nancy Pelosi's renomination as Speaker of the House.

Moulton is on the House Transportation Committee as is Jake Auchincloss. Today, Moulton is putting forward legislation on high speed rail coast to coast. Infrastructure improvements.

Signed a letter with 170 members of Congress to Secretary of State Blincken re human rights issues with Erdogan of Turkey; particularly with protection of journalists.

Partnered in SERVE ACT in including eating disorders in mental health issues covered by Tricare insurance covering military participants.

Moulton supports: the Equality Act, the Pandemic Act and HR1. He has worked with Ayanna Pressley on the Justice in Policing Act including ending the qualified immunity defense.

Personal note: Congressman and Mrs. Moulton welcomed a second daughter born on Valentine's Day!

GDCC Member comment: Bob Rutchik was chagrined by 156 House members voting against certification when the certification process resumed after the acts of insurrection at the Capitol that occurred on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Speaker: Alex Bosch, Biden MA campaign representative during the Presidential campaign. His news.

Of note from the campaign: MA and NY made the most cross country phone calls during during the campaign!

Bosch – Coming up: Of the thousands who volunteered for the Biden/Harris campaign. Want to keep these folks aboard. Gobs race in 22; 24, reelection. Sen. Hassan’s seat in NH. Bosch put his ID information into the Chat. Matt – welcomes addition of names of volunteers from the area – add them to our Mail Chimp.

Matt – resumed business meeting.

2 Vacancies on the GDCC Executive Committee: Secretary, DEI – Outreach. Committees: Fundraising; Scholarships, joining Bernadette, Mike and Bob.

Guest Speakers introduced: Topic – Small Business concerns, efforts, in Gloucester and Cape Ann generally.

Nancy Gerardi, Regional Director and Rosa Taormina Business Advisor or the MA SBAs Northeast Region. Working with Eisenberg Center at UMass Amherst a source of business advisers. During the pandemic, the business advisers have helped with information on PPP, loan forgiveness, and disaster loans and operators grants. Have assisted those with live performance venues. Have offered training sessions at

Salem State University. Counseled 146 businesses. 74 businesses started in Essex County. \$ 10 million in capital infusion.

Susan Coviello – Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce President, 2021. Loans have made a difference for North Shore Health. Over past year from the Chamber perspective: daily updates, weekly Soundings Newsletter. How is Cape Ann doing? Susan finds CA residents resilient, both the businesses and the customers. An example among restaurants, take out and curbside service. No comparable data from other communities, but CA seems to be doing at least as well as other places. Beauport, 4 days of reservations around weddings. On the other side, among salons and fitness sites, several have closed. Many have worked with Ken on PPP loans.

Lessons learned? Long lasting partnerships and collaboration help when problems arise. New normal. Safe streets and CA comeback. Spring and summer, strong bookings. Get outside dining started; affected by state rules. Meals tax info, reductions from norm by town: Manchester BTS, 50%; Essex, 35%; Gloucester, 26%.

Nancy Girardi – MA SBA – assisted people in filling in applications for PPP loans for which deadline was March 31<sup>st</sup>. Available for post application information?

Questions re status of usual Gloucester events: Block Parties? Not successful in 2020; in planning stages for 2021. Depends upon local and state rules. St. Peters Fiesta? Waiting to put in their application. Tuna Tourney? Waiting to put in application.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

ADDENDUM: Jos R Biden as last guest speaker of the night.  
Notes from Biden Speech, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Hats off to responders and medical staffs.

Losses due to covid. Govt response for one year, silence. 527,726 deaths as of this date. Lost jobs. Closed businesses. Children set back because of not being in school. Missed benchmarks, i.e., weddings, graduations, not seeing grandparents and friends.

Strategy: war footing. Vaccines. Shots. Pfizer, J&J, Moderna – working with Merck – a competitor.

Goals: enough vaccines for all adults by the end of May. 100,000 shots per day. Health centers in underserved areas. Mobile units. At home testing at some point.

Record: Day one in office: 8% vaccinated; now 55%; over 65, 70%.

Goal: 100 million in 1<sup>st</sup> 100 days; beat the goal, 100 mil by 60 days.

Steps: (1) Make all adults eligible no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

(2) Launch tools that will make it easier to find a vaccination site near you.

(3) American Rescue Plan. Teachers and school staff. Get schools reopened safely. K-8, no. 1 priority of Secretary of Education.

(4) (Clarify) what you can and cannot do.

(5) I need you to do your part. Get vaccinated.

If we can do this, by 4<sup>th</sup> of July can have small group cookouts in the backyard. Start to mark our independence. But, if we don't act, we can have the numbers turn around again. Its up to us.

Keep the masks, distancing. Beating the viruses needs national unity, not just votes in Washington. Don't want to reinstate restrictions.

Can we do it? JB: not a good bet to bet against the American people.

We saw the result of American perseverance with the landing of Rover on Mars. The American Rescue Plan is directed at reducing unemployment, food and nutrition, cutting child poverty in half. Bring back travelling. School and the economy.

We have to act together. We will come out stronger. With a renewed commitment to one another there is nothing we cannot do.

Solace to those who have lost someone during the pandemic; God Bless our troops.