

York Democratic Town Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014

The general meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Victoria Simon, Chair. Meeting was held at the Seacoast Democrats office in York. Eight members of the YDTC were present. Copies of the minutes for the September 12, 2013, general meeting and March 2, 2014, caucus were distributed. No changes to the minutes were noted; they were approved as written. Lydia Blume, Treasurer, reported a treasury balance of \$365.90.

First order of business was to elect a new vice chair for the YDTC. Victoria introduced Bob Luttmann who volunteered to serve. All officer terms will end with the 2016 caucus. No other names were submitted for consideration. Bob was unanimously elected.

Lydia Blume gave an overview of what was happening with candidates for state offices in our area. She confirmed that Paul McGowan, incumbent in the revised District 3, needed volunteer drivers. New candidate Patty Hymanson for District 4 (west York, Ogunquit, and parts of Wells and Sanford) needs drivers and data entry assistance.

A draft endorsement policy was distributed by the executive committee for discussing different aspects that might make up a formal endorsement policy. In addition, member Glen MacWilliams, was given the opportunity to hand out copies of a two-page letter he addressed to the YDTC. The letter detailed current County and Town Democratic by-law clauses relative to the purposes of those committees. It also offered his interpretation of how the town committee should operate under the stated purpose as well as problems with current practices. The overriding issue under discussion was whether we, as a Town Committee, should actively and publicly support a particular candidate for Board of Selectman (or other municipal office) based solely on their party affiliation as a Democrat. Glen proposed an amendment to YDTC by-laws. The motion he presented did not receive a "second." Given the fact that votes on by-law amendments required two weeks' notice to members, the group entered into an informal discussion of the motion and ideas presented in Glen's handout as well as the pros and cons of developing a formal endorsement policy.

The committee agreed that we would not propose any changes to our by-laws [i.e., not add an endorsement or a "support" clause] at this time. Attendees at the meeting overwhelmingly supported the concept of YDTC sponsoring informational forums prior to municipal elections with the goal of informing our members (and any non-Democratic residents who choose to attend) about candidates, their platforms and positions. There was also agreement that we would like to see and would actively recruit Democrats as candidates to all elected offices including municipal.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Hartwell, Secretary