

**Woburn Democratic City Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, Winter Business Meeting, Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

Called to order at 9:36AM – Jennifer Baker Jones, chairperson

There is an attendance form being dropped in the chat for everyone to sign in – attendance attached.

Jennifer: This is the time of year that we usually meet for the caucus. MassDems has just voted to delay the caucus to later in the spring/summer. More details to follow, including how caucuses will proceed given Covid 19.

Jennifer – asks for a motion on the minutes which were distributed by email.

Richard Haggerty makes motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by multiple present. Tim Garvey asked for clarification on where the minutes were distributed and Jennifer dropped in the chat. Jennifer took a vote on acceptance of the minutes which was unanimously approved.

Jennifer with some quick notes to share –

- We've launched our website, woburndems.org, to host our information, upcoming events, and thank you to Anthony Langone who has put the site together and is keeping it updated for us.
- The City Census has been sent by mail – please make sure you get it completed and encourage your neighbors to complete.
- We will be hosting ward committee meetings for each ward and we will hold these in sequence today. We have some people who would like to join our committee coming out of our actions for the Biden campaign. We're excited to have them join us!

Before our ward meetings Jennifer showed a quick video about our 2020 Woburn Dems actions – Jennifer said it makes her (and us) really proud of what we've accomplished in the last year which was a real challenge, but was an opportunity for us to come together and support Democrats and each other.

Today's meeting is a bit of a reset – we have the White House and the Senate and the House, but we're only plus one in the Senate. We'll reset now, take a breath and look ahead to what we can accomplish together to support Democrats and their policy agenda.

Ward Meetings –

Jennifer: There will be ward meetings today for wards 1,2,3,4 &6.

Jennifer to Brad Amidon, Ward 5 chair – Brad waived a meeting for ward 5

Jennifer to Sue Coakley, Ward 7 chair – Sue waived a meeting for ward 7

Jennifer turned the meeting to Andrew Lipsett to convene a Ward 1 meeting

Andrew recognized members of the committee and State Rep Michelle Ciccolo who is the state rep covering Ward 1. Andrew introduced Gina Curreri as a Democrat of Ward 1 who would like to join the committee. Emily Lipsett nominated Gina, Derek Genova seconded. Vote taken and Gina was added

unanimously. Andrew asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Derek Genova made a motion; seconded by Margaret Valentine. The ward 1 meeting adjourned.

June Mackenzie called to order a meeting of the Ward 2 committee and introduced Kim Leonard who wishes to join the committee. Rai An Parrish nominated Kim as a new member; Ed Quinn seconded the nomination. June called a vote and it was unanimous to add Kim Leonard as a member of Ward 2 committee. June called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Quinn made a motion; Rai An Parrish seconded the motion. The Ward 2 meeting was adjourned.

Carol Youngclaus called to order the ward 3 meeting for the purpose of adding new members to the committee. Kristen Hackney and Heather Burns – both took a moment to introduce themselves. Carol asked for a motion to nominate Kristen and Heather. Jeff Dillon made a motion; seconded by Carol Donovan. Carol called for a vote and the vote was unanimous to add Kristen and Heather to the committee. Carol asked for a motion to close the meeting. Jeff Dillon made a motion to close the meeting; seconded by several. The meeting was adjourned.

Anthony Langone called the Ward 4 meeting to order for the purpose of electing Kathryn Thifault to the Ward 4 Committee. Anthony asked for a motion to nominate. Elizabeth Cavicchi nominated Kathryn; Dave Koffman seconded. Anthony called for a vote. The vote was unanimous and Kathryn was added to the committee. Anthony asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anthony made a motion; Elizabeth Cavicchi seconded. The ward 4 meeting was adjourned.

Patty McCall called the meeting of Ward 6 to order for the purpose of adding Mario Bertoni to the Ward 6 committee. Patrice made a motion to add Mario; Geraldine O'Connell seconded. Patty called a vote and Mario was added unanimously. Patty made a motion to adjourn and Geraldine seconded. The ward 6 meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer thanked the Ward Chairs for holding their meetings today and welcomed our new members and thanked everyone for bearing with our awkward format over Zoom.

#### Legislative Updates –

Jennifer introduced the next section of our agenda with updates from our legislators on Beacon Hill. State Representative Richard Haggerty started with his update – some items included climate, the Roe Act, transportation bond bill, economic development and economic recovery, dealing with Covid and changes that were necessary for flexibility. Looking ahead to 2021 will be making permanent some voter access initiatives that proved very popular during the 2020 elections.

Jennifer next introduced State Representative Michelle Ciccolo for her update. Things she touched on in her update was the law to make telehealth permanent which will help provide better access. Climate bill and the work to get it past the governor. Climate, transportation and education are her top priorities. She launched the Zero Waste Caucus to focus on ways to reduce waste and reduce its impact on some communities in MA. Rep Ciccolo expressed that this is an exciting time with so many Massachusetts elected officials leading in Washington. Massachusetts can set a course as a leader but we need to keep it up in upcoming elections.

Jennifer next introduced State Senator Cindy Friedman for an update. Senator Friedman expressed that the state legislature is in a good spot with new House leadership – a chance to solve some problems for

the people of Massachusetts. A lot of energy was put into getting ready for the Covid-19 vaccine roll outs and to improve the process by empowering our local boards of health to administer vaccine. A critical piece of the Covid plan is to convince those resistant to taking the vaccine to make the decision to vaccinate. Other priorities include pharma pricing, mental health, incarceration and mental health, housing and Covid relief funds via the Federal government.

Questions to the delegation – John Curran spoke to advocate for sending vaccines to local boards of health is very necessary. Additionally, we need to get schools open but teachers need to be vaccinated. Lastly, zoning change to majority vs 2/3 majority, the change is appreciated. Andrew Lipsett spoke to agree with John on vaccinating teachers soon to get schools re-opened and kids back in the classroom. John Heslin spoke to say that moving teachers up means someone else is displaced – we need more vaccine to cover all. Rep Haggerty spoke to say it will be very important to have the local boards of health involved because they know their populations and the state vaccination sites are a big trip. Senator Friedman said she is hopeful that within the week there will be more news on vaccines to local boards of health. She also spoke to a broken public health system and we need to fund it as the important agency it is so we can be prepared for the next pandemic, as we were not this time. Margaret Valentine expressed her thanks to our entire delegation for their work. Sue Coakley spoke to also express thanks and to stress that some of the Federal aid will offer an important opportunity to rebuild infrastructure, transportation, climate resiliency – all very important to Massachusetts. Senator Friedman spoke to paying attention that we don't take Massachusetts for granted – we need to bring in the people who don't support progressive change. Jennifer Jones spoke to say that it is important to remember that there are people running on the Republican ticket against our liberal Democrat leaders so we need to support our elected officials who are working for our values. Rep. Ciccolo mentioned that redistricting is coming in 2021 given the 2020 census. Tim Garvey asked how we can participate in redistricting. Rep Ciccolo said there will be committees appointed, hearings, etc. Jennifer noted that Woburn will see redistricting locally which may impact our Ward Committees. Jennifer expressed thanks to our delegation and asked our membership to reach out to them with questions because they are working for us and want to hear how they can better represent our interests.

Jennifer reviewed our 2020 initiatives as we look ahead to what we can do going forward:

- Woburn Dems day of action in January with canvassing for presidential candidates
- Senator Markey's visit to Woburn before the caucus, then a successful organization for Markey in the caucus
- For the Biden campaign we reorganized to support the Democratic ticket with a launch of Biden for Woburn – we had a bi-weekly phonebank with a Zoom to check in and make calls. We also had people doing texting and postcards and it was really helpful to know who was working on what because I could do the phoning and connect volunteers with other opportunities that were in their skill set – really great!
- Senator Markey came back to Woburn in August and it was great to have Woburn on the campaign map – will be great to make Woburn a stop for 2022 candidates!
- We had committee members working on Ranked Choice Voting.
- We had committee members attending protests to speak up for our values – really amazing to see us coming together despite the pandemic to support each other and our community.
- Heading into the fall election our Registration and Outreach Sub-Committee made a brochure to distribute to high school seniors – a great opportunity to continue.

- To celebrate the Inauguration we participated in the National Day of Service with a food drive that was an outstanding success filling more than 2 pallets at the food pantry, and we had people coming from across the region including Winchester, Reading and North Andover.
- We are launched our newsletter to keep you all informed of what is going on and how to get involved.
- Anthony Langone has worked hard on our website Woburndems.org which will feature upcoming events, photos, archive our meeting information – thank you Anthony for getting this going.
- Building our Ward Committees – it is great to see the number of people on our committees increasing and that we always have people reaching out asking how they can get involved.
- Keep letting us know what projects you are working on so we can connect willing volunteers with opportunities.

We have started three sub-committees – Registration and Outreach, Issues and Campaigns and Communications and Publicity. We'd like to work on building our profile through the sub-committees. Jennifer mentioned that Juneteenth falls on a Saturday this year and she is talking with a few organizations to celebrate the day in Woburn with a community event, this is the first time Juneteenth is a state holiday in MA – it would be an opportunity to publicize our committee, register voters and bring in information about issues and campaigns around the event – we'd like to brainstorm today – what else can our committees do, or what do you want to do?

#### Treasurer's Report –

Phyllis Norwood, Treasurer, offered an update on the treasury. We are in good health with a balance of \$1,342.60 with a few reimbursements due leaving us with \$1,273.60. We continue to get recurring gifts through ActBlue which is great and an easy way for people to make donations that support our committee, but you can make single donations too. Tim Garvey asked how many recurring donations we get, Phyllis answered 3 donors. Jennifer noted that our funds are used for our meeting space when we meet in person, for any events we do or voter registration.

Jennifer Jones asked the committee for approval to buy a banner for the committee for about \$250 – the banner would be used at events. There was a motion made (voice not identified), seconded by Carol Donovan. Vote was unanimous for approval. John Heslin asked if it would be a union shop and Jennifer said yes it will be done at Connolly Printing in Woburn.

Jennifer turned the meeting over to Steve Hurley, WDCC Vice Chair, to introduce the work that our sub-committees have been doing, and to take suggestions for further new initiatives.

Steve began by thanking Jennifer for her work to reinvigorate the WDCC. Steve then started by sharing that our committee is trying to raise our profile and increase our actions by using the sub-committees as grassroots working groups. We have chairpersons for each sub-committee, but if there are other issues we can cover and you'd like to lead, please let us know.

Registration and Outreach - John Cordero is leading the committee on voter registration and outreach (John wasn't available to join us).

Issues and Campaigns - Andrew Lipsett is leading this sub-committee – the committee met in advance of the Georgia Senate seat run-off and we had several people on our committee involved on that effort for

postcards and calling – it was a very critical race and the outcome made a huge difference. The committee discussed long- and medium-term goals – maybe movie screenings; with voter registration and outreach and connecting with high school students, notably the embRACE Club; also mobilizing people for elections. Long range plans would include issues like climate and LGBTQ+ topics. Andrew mentioned seeing a mention of police reform in the chat and that is a topic too, getting the community in discussion. Andrew welcomes anyone who wishes to join and participate. Steve stressed that the committees are open ended, join for your interests and how you can help, reach out and let us know.

Communications and Publicity - Steve introduced Anthony Langone who is leading this sub-committee. Activities include getting our website going as a service and arm to communicate about our work. Anthony says there are three main areas he's working on, the first being the website. Anthony shared his screen to offer a tour of the website. He shared pages showing what the committee is about, links to Ward Chair contact info, our ActBlue link for donations, listing upcoming events so we can advertise in the paper or other methods and people can easily find us. The website also includes a listing and links to our elected officials. There is a "Get Involved" section that includes info on voter registration. Anthony is also working on getting the word out about our work, sharing info in digital and print including press releases, event listing on Woburn Patch and keeping our connection tight with our state house delegation. We'll also be using the newsletter to keep people connected with news, events and opportunities. Reach out to Anthony if you're interested in getting involved with this sub-committee.

Steve expressed there is a lot happening and great work in their early stages, building ideas and opportunities for engagement. Let's brainstorm a bit on what more we can do. Jennifer also introduced and dropped in the chat a survey to complete today or will be sent with the next newsletter.

Brainstorming focus, on these topics or others – feel free to share

- Are there people in our network to help us achieve the objectives described above?
- Suggestions for areas of focus and resources we need
- Other opportunities we should be exploring?

Steve opened the floor for discussion:

Tim Garvey mentioned that he sits on the Greater Boston Association of Realtors new committee for Diversity Equity Inclusion focused on obstacles to homeownership and rental issues for Hispanic, Black, Asian and LGBTQ – if you have issues to share to that committee please reach out to Tim.

Margaret Valentine spoke re looking toward unity for our committee to come together and support our community, how are we reaching out to our neighbors? One program she is looking at is providing for kids, there is so much food inequity in our community. Can we do more, use money from the treasury? We do a lot of political things, can we give back to our community? Steve said he appreciates that, we can show we're good members of the community in service.

Jeff Dillon spoke up to say he appreciates Margaret's suggestion and has had some conversations with Dr. Crowley (school superintendent) to try to improve the lunch program offered to all kids right now. There is a bus that delivers the lunches or lunch is available at each school. Jeff will reach out and let him know that we are thinking about this too.

Carol Donovan mentioned that there is someone named Leslie Gangi with the Housing Authority and she is able to help families with any needs.

Pat Deal mentions that the website and press releases will be a big help to reach people beyond the committee, and she also thinks looking at various issues through the sub-committee could also bring in some new people.

Kelley Hurley spoke to say can we have a “give back to the community” sub-committee that focuses on ways that we as a committee can serve our community.

Elissa raised her hand to share that a group of Woburn organizations called the Mutual Aid Network meets monthly and suggested that we might link in with them to see where some needs are.

Jennifer said this is exactly the purpose of our discussion so we know how to reach out, to whom we can reach out – this is a big help.

Steve asked for last comments and reminded everyone to take the survey which will also be in the next newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to the sub-committee chairs, or to Jennifer or Steve regarding new interests.

Carol Donovan spoke to welcome Eileen Zalisk from Lexington who is on the State Committee. Jennifer apologized for missing the spot on the agenda to thank the committee members attending and noted that Marlene Silva of Arlington had been with us earlier. Eileen said she really enjoyed the meeting.

Jennifer wrapped the meeting and reminded everyone to email [woburndems@gmail.com](mailto:woburndems@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions. Thank you to everyone for coming – we don’t have a committee without your participation. Jennifer asked for a motion to adjourn and many jumped in the make a motion and second. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Minutes prepared by J. Jones.

Attendance (those signed in on the Google form during the meeting)

<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>	<b>Which Ward do you live in</b>
Marlene	Silva	State Committee
Eileen	Zalisk	State Committee
Michelle	Ciccolo	State Representative
Cindy	Friedman	State Senator
Gina	Curreri	Ward 1
Derrick	Genova	Ward 1
Gary	Glennon	Ward 1
Jen	Hess	Ward 1
Andrew	Lipsett	Ward 1
Emily	Lipsett	Ward 1
Angela	Thomas	Ward 1

Margaret	Valentine	Ward 1
Carla	Beaudoin	Ward 2
Kim	Leonard	Ward 2
June	Mackenzie	Ward 2
Elise	Mayers	Ward 2
Rai-An	Perrish	Ward 2
Edward	Quinn	Ward 2
Thomas	Arsenault	Ward 3
Heather	Byrns	Ward 3
julie	cotton	Ward 3
John	Curran	Ward 3
Kelly	Curran	Ward 3
Patricia	Deal	Ward 3
Jeff	Dillon	Ward 3
Carol	Donovan	Ward 3
Kristen	Hackney	Ward 3
Jirina	Koduvailil	Ward 3
Bobby	Koduvailil	Ward 3
John	Scanlon	Ward 3
Carol	Youngclaus	Ward 3
Rich	Haggerty	Ward 3 State Representative
Elizabeth	Cavicchi	Ward 4
Ramla	Hagi	Ward 4
Chip/Jesse	Jones	Ward 4
Jennifer Baker	Jones	Ward 4
Emma	Jones	Ward 4
David	Koffman	Ward 4
Anthony	Langone	Ward 4
Elissa	Milto	Ward 4
Phyllis	Norwood	Ward 4
Diane	Scinto	Ward 4
Kathryn	Thifault	Ward 4
Ellen-Marie	Winson	Ward 4

Brad	Amidon	Ward 5
Colleen	Cormier	Ward 5
Timothy	Garvey	Ward 5
Deshea	Harris	Ward 5
George	Harris	Ward 5
JOHN	HESLIN	Ward 5
Vanessa	Keating	Ward 5
Mario	Bertoni	Ward 6
Patrice	McCall	Ward 6
Geraldine	Oconnell	Ward 6
HassanShafiq	Ssemwogerere	Ward 6
Sue	Coakley	Ward 7
Lilya	Dreik	Ward 7
Kelley	Hurley	Ward 7
Steve	Hurley	Ward 7