

## Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA



### Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Newsletter: March 17, 2016



Megan English Braga and daughter, Simone, at Liam's kickoff

**Megan English Braga**, Chair, opened the meeting with the report of the Nomination Committee. The nominees for FDTC officers and Executive Committee members were as follows: Chairperson **Megan English Braga**, Vice Chairperson **Scott Simenas**; Recording Secretary **Kirstin Moritz**; Corresponding Secretary **Judy Ziss**; Treasurer **Lloyd Beckett**; Affirmative Action/Outreach Advisor **Hugh Gregory**; and At-Large Executive Committee members **Elaine Hickey**, **Lou Turner**, and **Martha Gillis**. There was a motion to accept this slate and the vote taken approved all members. **Megan** announced that the FDTC would be searching for a new Treasurer to replace **Lloyd Beckett** after his many good years of service. **Lloyd** and **Ruth** will be spending more time in FL. Anyone interested in assuming the position should contact **Megan**. **Megan** welcomed the newly elected group and noted that everyone's passion would be needed in the coming election cycle.

Announcements were then made. **Amy Kullar**, the State Committee Woman for the Barnstable district, introduced herself. **Anthony Morse** reminded everyone to sign for Bill Keating's reelection. **Mike Heylin**, who has offered to do the filming of our FDTC meetings, introduced himself. He is running for State Rep for the Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket District. **Ewell Hopkins** of Oak Bluffs and **Jessica Lambert** of Falmouth, as well as **Dylan Fernandes** of Falmouth introduced themselves also as running for the same position. **Randy Azzato**, running for Sheriff, introduced himself.

**Lou Turner** gave a short presentation on three issues supported by both the Coalition for Social Justice and Democrats. He indicated that the CSJ is looking for people who have stories to tell about how they might be helped by the passing of the Millionaire's Tax. This is a proposal for a 4% tax on income over \$1 million. The tax money would be spent on public education and infrastructure needs. In addition they are looking for stories which show the need for Paid Family Medical Leave and for raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Sign up sheets were available for those whose personal stories would highlight the need for these measures to be passed on Beacon Hill.

Megan introduced the candidates **Matt Patrick** and **Michael**



Lou Turner and Tom LeBach

**Blanton** for the meeting Forum. Both are running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Barnstable State Representative seat now held by **David Vieira, Republican**.



**Michael Blanton**

**Michael Blanton**, Bourne selectmen, real estate broker, and teacher has lived on the Cape since he was an infant. He supports Hilary Clinton and recognizes the challenges single mothers face since he was raised by a single mother. He served on the Cape Cod Commission for Bourne and on the Bourne Housing Authority as well as on the selectmen's board. He has concern for many important Cape issues, such as water issues, and wants to listen and translate our concerns to Beacon Hill. He feels he has, through his experiences studying abroad in China, good understanding of cultural differences which may make a difference to those living on the Cape.

**Matt Patrick**, former State Representative for ten years in this position, noted that he had a reputation for sticking his neck out on Beacon Hill and much previous experience representing our area. He said that the jobs that will be created from the Millionaire's Tax are important ones. He supports the \$15 an hour minimum wage found in Senator Wolf's bill. He wants to push for a single payer health care plan and to decriminalize non violent drug use. He stated that we need rehabilitation on demand to treat the Cape's drug problem. He advocates the positions held by Bernie Sanders.



**Matt Patrick**

The following questions were posed by the audience:



1. Question on the Aid in Dying Bill ( H1991) and where the candidates stood on this bill. Both supported the bill.
2. Question on Fossil Fuel Divestment: Michael Blanton had no strong position but Matt Patrick supports this idea and bills to facilitate it.
3. Low Cost Internet Access through Broad Band on the Cape: Both felt this was essential for getting businesses on the Cape and stated that the state should invest in this.
4. Charter Schools: Matt Patrick voted against Charter Schools. Michael Blanton feels that we should be investing in public schools and building them up.

5. Millionaire's Tax: Both appear to support it. Michael Blanton calls for a reformulation of the tax system in MA. The question of why non- residents do not pay income tax in MA was discussed.
6. Rules about paying for nursing homes : Both felt that asking residents to spend their money way down, before assistance with nursing home costs, placed an undue burden particularly on older women whose husbands need nursing home care.
7. Substance abuse issues: Both agreed that more treatment is greatly needed after the damage is done and people are released from treatment if they are lucky enough to even get treatment. Both agreed that decriminalization and destigmatizing is needed along with job retraining and counseling. **Matt Patrick** mentioned that money is key so that these issues can be treated. There is a need to switch from prisons to rehabilitation programs.
8. Legalizing Marijuana: Neither was sure beyond their support of medical marijuana.
9. Foreclosure problem: Both support local mediation attempts before foreclosure. There is a bill now on Beacon Hill calling for mediation in these situations.
10. Young people's environment on the Cape: both spoke to the need for more entertainment and recreational activities for youth on the Cape.

**Megan** then thanked both candidates and closed the meeting.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor, with photos by **Martha Gillis** and **Zelda MacGregor**.

#### Calendar:

**April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Monthly meeting will feature speaker **Eva Millona, Executive Director of the MA Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Center**, on the issues of Immigration and Refugees and will be held at 7 p.m. at the Gus Canty Center.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>:** Monthly meeting will feature a forum discussion between remaining candidates for the State Representative position. Speakers to be determined. To be held at 7 p.m. at the Gus Canty Center.

#### FDTC Officers:

Chair: **Megan English Braga** at 508-540-3434 Ext. 4 and attymeb@gmail.com

Vice Chair: **Scott Simenas** at 508-540-3490 and scott\_simenas@comcast.net

Treasurer: **Lloyd Beckett** at 508-563-6264 and [papa@alum.mit.edu](mailto:papa@alum.mit.edu)

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Affirmative Action/Outreach Advisor: **Hugh Gregory** at 508-548-4696 and moohu38@yahoo.com

Link to our Facebook page: the Falmouth Democratic Town Committee

#### Annual membership Fiscal Year: April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Name: Address: Precinct:

Email Address: Phone:

Elected Committee Member: \$25 a year

Associate Member: \$15 a year Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year

Total Donation: Please mail to **FDTC, PO Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541**

