



Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Newsletter May, 2016

Megan English Braga called the standing room only meeting to order. The crowd applauded her very recent election as a member of the Falmouth Board of Selectmen. **Lloyd Beckett**, Treasurer, noted that we have \$6,706 in the FDTC account. That may be enough for renting an office during the final months of the election campaign ahead, but not enough to have on hand for all that will be needed. He urged members to pay their dues. That can be done by mailing in the form at the end of this newsletter.

Megan noted that we will soon announce the winner of the Thelma Goldstein Award for high school seniors. **Penny Duby** announced a forum next Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30 in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public library. The topic is the *Financial Implications of Nursing Home Care*, and the speaker is Attorney **Amy Kullar**, who is also our state Democratic party representative. This is a topic presented by a newly formed group, Supporting Women in Financial Transition (SWIFT) which is working on many issues dear to the hearts of Democrats. **Peter Waasdorf** presented information on Fair Share: our legislators have endorsed a constitutional proposal to raise taxes on the very rich which is titled the "Millionaire's Tax" or "Fair Share Tax." The extra cash would be used to boost education and transportation. There were 135 out of 200 senators and representatives voting for the provision. The current income tax for the state is 5.1% for all levels. The amendment would impose an additional 5% on taxable incomes in excess of 1 million dollars starting in 2019. There would be 19,500 returns affected or 0.5 % of all returns. **Michael Blanton** announced a speaker for the Bourne Democratic Town Committee meeting on animal rights.

Megan English Braga introduced our panel of speakers. They are the four candidates for the State Representative seat being vacated by Tim Madden. This seat represents Falmouth precincts 1, 2, 5 and



6, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Each candidate gave a brief introductory statement.

Candidates' Panel

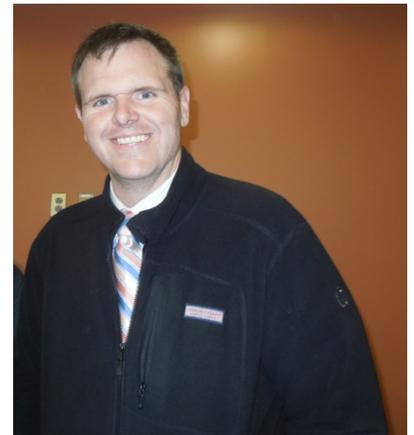


Ewell Hopkins

Ewell Hopkins (EH): He noted that his son is the 4th generation to be born free. His Dad's grandfather was a slave who fought in the Civil War and was then freed. Now the Daughters of the American Revolution take care of the family graves in Martha's Vineyard where the family has lived for generations. He is Chair of the Oaks Bluffs Democratic Town Committee and President of the Martha's Vineyard Democratic Council. He wants to unify our far flung district since a united district would have more clout on Beacon Hill.

in Wrentham. He and wife are raising two children in our community and he is running to keep our community affordable.

Michael Heylin (MH): He noted that he is not a politician and comes from a Falmouth family. He runs a non-profit



Michael Heylin

Jessica Lambert (JL): She noted that she is also not a politician. She is a conservation biologist and very involved with climate change issues. She is running because she feels she can make more headway on climate issues by running for office rather than trying to work individually.



Jessica Lambert

Dylan Fernandes (DF): He is a Falmouth resident and 4th generation Portuguese in the area. He wants to bring new energy to the district. He is the first person in his family to go to college and plans to stand up for our most vulnerable. He worked for the

Elizabeth Warren and Maura Healey campaigns and was the first person chosen to work in the Healey office, where he was the digital director and worked on many issues of concern.

Elizabeth Warren and **Maura Healey** campaigns and was the first person chosen to work in the **Healey**



Dylan Fernandes



FDTC attentive and good humored audience

Questions from the audience followed:

1. **What life experience do you have to bring to this position, since several of you are young?** **Ewell Hopkins** noted that age is not a factor in our technology driven world.

Michael Heylin noted that he owns

a home in Falmouth and after his wife lost her job, they had to learn how to handle those stresses. **Jessica Lambert** also owns a home in Falmouth and runs her own business. She watched her own mother as a single parent handle tough issues and feels empathy to those who are trying hard to survive. **Dylan Fernandes** has run large parts of previous political campaigns, has advocated for the Trans bill, “Everyone Welcome”, and has worked on the opioid program, “Mass Recovery” to help end the stigma of drug addiction.

2. **Question on the Transgender Bill, S753, H1577:** All support the bill and noted that 17 other states have passed it.

3. **What local issues have you been involved in?** **JL** noted that she has served on the Human Services Committee, attended Energy Committee meetings, worked at MBL and done much environmental consulting based on MA policies. **MH** noted that he believes in creating bridges

from the Cape to Boston (communication bridges, that is!) and has been active in Falmouth Cleans, working on the Nobska Lighthouse and other areas, and being active in local politics, such as the recent Eight Cousins controversy with the Board of Selectmen. **EH** noted that he wants to give his full time focus to community issues. He has expertise in Housing issues, especially affordable housing issues, and he was active in the Youth Guidance program in Framingham. He believes voices are weakened when they are separate and not joined together. **DF** has been active in substance abuse and suicide prevention issues. He is involved in affordable housing issues. His family owns a small business and they lack a work force because of expensive housing, so he sees change of zoning laws as important.



Questions and contemplation from the audience

4. **What are your strongest concerns for our area?** **MH** noted opioid issues, housing, jobs, and energy issues. **EH** noted that the theme now is fear of scarcity and that he is concerned about the “stove piping” in our area (towns do not share information or work together). He said that we must not use boutique solutions for industrial sized problems. **DH** spoke about affordable housing and the opioid epidemic. He helped start the Community Engagement Division in Maura Healey’s office which addresses a way to work on these issues. **JL** noted that everyone wants representative government but that most issues are individual and people want most of all to have someone listen to them.
5. **What are your attitudes toward charter schools?** All opposed the expansion of charter schools and agreed that education is the best tool for lifting people out of poverty.
6. **What can be done about health care cost issues?** All agreed that we should move toward a single payer health system.
7. **What non family member do you most admire?** **JL:** Elizabeth Warren. **MH:** Bob Antonucci, former superintendent of schools in Falmouth and former President of Fitchburg State University. **EH:** Howard Thurman, American writer and the mentor to MLK. **DF:** Maura Healey.
8. **What legislation would you most like to have passed?** **DF:** the Millionaire’s Tax or Fair Share Tax as explained earlier in this newsletter. In addition, the Trans Bill, Paid Family Leave and a Student Borrower’s Bill of Rights. **EH:** Steamship Authority governance and Comprehensive Planning for the coastal areas. **MH:** Travel reform from the Cape to Boston with a year round train. **JL:** Energy infrastructure progress as well as reduction of use of nuclear power and development of other green sources of energy.
9. **What are your main environmental concerns for our area?** All agreed on the following: we



The panel answering questions

have a fragile ecosystem with too many people and a weak infrastructure. There is overuse of water and we need planning for water usage and better water quality. We have overfishing near the MA coast. There is ocean acidification, which could have effects on tourism. All agreed that our economy depends on a healthy environment and developing additional

sources of energy. Closing Pilgrim and developing wind energy off shore were mentioned as important actions to consider.

Megan introduced Randy **Azzato**, candidate for Sheriff and he announced his meet and greet on May 28th from 11-1 at Dogs and Hogs. He will release his opioid plan and all his plans for being Sheriff on his website soon.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter editor; photos by **Michael Blanton** and FDTC photographer, **Martha Gillis**.

Calendar:

June 15th: Monthly Meeting will feature speakers from Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and other local organizations of importance and will be held at 7 p.m. at the Gus Canty Center.

July 20th: Monthly Meeting will feature a speaker from the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and will be held at 7 p.m. at the Gus Canty Center.

August 17: Annual FDTC Picnic: at Dillingham Place with time to be announced.

FDTC Officers:

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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