

# Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA

## Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Newsletter: January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Megan English Braga**, Chair of the FDTC, welcomed new attendees. The room was packed. She reminded the crowd that her D Newsletter will send out action items in this tumultuous time. **David Barrat**, Treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$2,986.71 in the Treasury and a balance of \$3,271 in the Thelma Goldstein FDTC Scholarship Fund.

**Misty Myer** and **Flannery Rogers** of the new Falmouth group, **Engage**, gave a presentation. The group formed after the recent election to bring attention to issues such as protecting the environment, and civil and women's rights. They plan direct actions and will cosponsor rallies, workshops on activism, and marches. You can join them on Facebook and they post actions on Facebook. Their Volunteer Fair, last weekend, was highly successful. Many



Engage member

Democrats were sighted at the Fair, learning about groups involved in issues which have risen to importance after the election of Donald Trump.

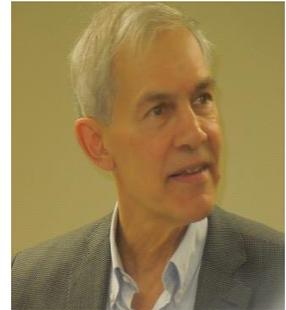


Engage member

**Scott Simenas** and **Amy Sharpe** presented a brief talk on **CIVIC** which is a new coalition of 22 communities on the Cape and Islands working for social, political, and economic change, and environmental progress through public education, coalition building, grassroots outreach, government lobbying, and direct action. Current initiatives include universal Pre-K with Fair Shot for island communities. The group also works on voter registration, the plastic bag ban in towns not yet having the ban, and supports legislative efforts to decommission the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. They will have a full time community organizer. This is an effort which grew out of a plan originally created by **Dan Wolf**.



Amy Sharpe



Scott Simenas

**Amy Sharpe** also presented information on the **Cape Cod Women's Coalition**. She is the Falmouth and Bourne point person on the Board. The mission of this group is to get more women involved in civic life.

**Sandy Faiman-Silva** gave a presentation on the **Coalition for Social Justice**. This group is a grassroots progressive group working on the Cape and in New Bedford, Fall River and Brockton. They have an extensive agenda including Working Families issues, Green Justice, Jobs not Jails, Family Leave, and Low Income Housing. They do work on the ground with phone banks, door to door visits, and workshops. They want to have more of a presence in Falmouth in order to put pressure on our elected officials to pay attention to the agenda of issues to help the working class.



Boston March



Sandy Faiman-Silva

**Sharing of Experiences:** Many attendees had participated in the post inaugural marches around the county and spoke about their experiences. **Penny Duby** and **Wendi Buessler** both organized transport to these various marches for the Cape. **Elaine Hickey** was in Boston and noted that 7 buses left from Sagamore with 400 from the Cape. All ages and men with daughters swelled the

crowd of over 175,000. Many hardly moved because of the crowd, but it was a wonderful experience. **Sheryl Dawson** was in Washington, D.C. and spoke of the enormous crowd which was very diverse and attended by friendly police. **Steve Patton** was in Falmouth on the village Green. His 2 year old grandson carried a sign, "Keep your tiny hands off my rights." **Betty Lewandoski** and **Kate Eldridge** spoke about foreign friends who had called them and participated in actions abroad. **Olivia White** spoke about being from a different country, Texas, and said she had worn a Rainbow Coalition shawl on the Falmouth Green. **Vicki Lowell** was on the Green and noted that the White House Petition Website has a list of action items with petitions to sign. **Kathleen Glueck** of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence noted the move in MA to make concealed carry possible (opposed by the group), and that **Maura Healey**, our AG, is bringing lawsuits against this move and has pushed to ban copy cat guns. She repeated **Michelle Obama's** quote, "When they go low, we go high." **Megan Hanawalt** noted that standing in line at the French Bakery in town is good training in patience and lauded the community effort at knitting pussy hats. **Sally Hauck** noted the large march in NYC. **Peter Waasdorf** mentioned there is to be a Science March in April in Washington, D.C. He also pointed out that 46 percent of people did not vote and Democrats need to think about what we have to do to reach those folks. **Carol Strongy** was inspired by the emphasis on women's health issues in the D. C. March. **Marie Vatour** noted she felt it was not right to blame Hillary Clinton for the election result. **Grant Walker** reminded us of the upcoming Engage Volunteer Fair. **Wendy Bone** hoped that negativity would not prevail and said that Trump supporters should not be considered our enemies. **Maggie Collins** asked that we stop looking back but that negativity was certainly understandable. **Selma Fenster** went to the Boston march and felt that for the first time, "Woman," was a universal category as "Man" had always been.



Betty Lewandoski



Olivia White



Grant Walker

**Megan** closed the meeting by thanking **Pam Rothstein**, **Peter Waasdorf**, and **Grant Walker** for their efforts in organizing the rally on the Falmouth Green. **Kevin Lynch**, a representative of the local TV station, noted the station could provide better speakers in the future so that those on the Green could hear better. Videos of the rally will be on the Engage Facebook page. Megan was thanked for her speech on the Green and her comments on "de-

othering the other."

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Recording Secretary.  
Photos by **Martha Gillis**, FDTC photographer.



Pat Keoughan



Kathleen Glueck



Vicki Lowell



Kevin Lynch

#### Calendar:

February 15<sup>th</sup>: next FDTC monthly meeting. Gus Canty Center at 7 p.m. Program to be announced via Dmail.

February 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: visit of Gus Bickford, new chair of the State Democratic Committee to Falmouth.

Notification of site will be sent via Dmail.

**FDTC Officers:**

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**Megan Hanawalt**

**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



**Carol Strongy**