



Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Meeting: April 19, 2017

Megan English Braga, Chair of the FDTC, called the meeting to order. She noted that our next meeting will be held a week early on May 10 so that the ballot questions can be reviewed then before the May 16 election. Before the main presentation by **David McGlinchey**, Director of Communications for the Woods Hole Research Center, several others spoke.



Jessica Lambert

Jessica Lambert spoke about House Bill 3564 which has been submitted by Dylan Fernandes and Julian Cyr. It is an important bill titled, “ An Act relative to Massachusetts participation in the Paris Climate Agreement’s Green House Gas Emission Standards.” Jessica authored this bill, Michael Blanton and Stephen Craffey edited it, and it was proposed by representatives Dylan Fernandes and Julian Cyr in January, 2017. It asks that the general law 21N of MA include text stating that the state will participate in the Paris Agreement. The Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture has the bill. If the bill passes, Massachusetts would sign on as a signatory to the Paris Agreement and work to meet or exceed the standards adopted by the UN in implementing plans for climate change mitigation. You can google the bill easily to read the entire text. Jessica asked that we call our legislators to urge them to support this bill. Contact her at jessica.g.lambert@gmail.com.

Kirstin Moritz announced the schedule for local events during Climate Week, April 22 to the 29th which includes tours of sustainable houses, marches, movies and other library events, as well as a talk by **George Woodwell** and tour at the Woods Hole Research Center. The Falmouth Climate Action Team, the Town Energy Committee, Self-Reliance, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Engage are among the many groups sponsoring activities for the week. Email Kirstin for more information at kmoritz@verizon.net.

It was announced that **Setti Warren**, candidate for Governor, will be in town in May. Notices about house parties will go out.

Candidates for selectmen for the town election on May 16th spoke. Incumbent **Sam Patterson** sees himself as a communication link to town volunteer committees and related that he had pushed for harmonious procedures at school committee meetings with the selectmen. He felt that effort resulted in a positive budget session this year.



Sam Patterson

He believes that seeking common goals with all parties pays off and noted that he had attended many useful workshops at the state and local level. **Su Moran**, also an incumbent, spoke about her work on the county level and her work in continuing the Strategic Plan



Pamela Harting-Barrat

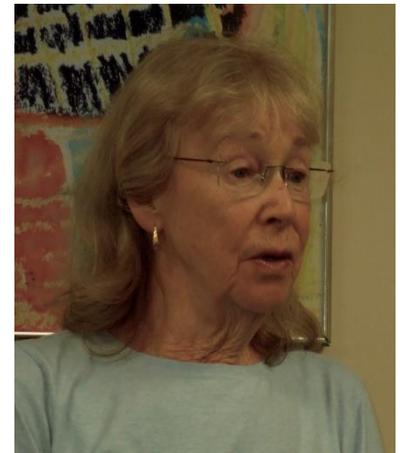
initiative and the implementation of the Capital Plan projects. **Pam**

Harting-Barrat, running for a three year term on the Planning Board, spoke and urged the town to consider the issue of planning now for a weather disaster event. Because of her experience in working for the EPA in responding to disasters, she is well aware of the importance of this issue. She has much prior experience in Acton and was the Chair of the Board of Selectmen there. **Charlotte Harris** announced



Su Moran

she was running for a one year term on the Planning Board. She is eager to get her feet wet



Charlotte Harris

in town issues this way.



David McGlinchey

The main speaker, **David McGlinchey**, took the floor with his presentation titled, "Climate Policy in the Age of Alternative Facts." He related that the Woods Hole Research Center, (WHRC), was founded in 1985 by scientist, George Woodwell, and that its mission has always been to turn " Science into Policy." As we all know, a former Director of the WHRC, John Holdren, was President Obama's Science Advisor for 8 years and has now returned to the WHRC as a senior advisor. We are lucky to have the number one Climate Change Think Tank here in

Falmouth.

He told us that the past three years have been the hottest years in climate history, with the highest atmospheric carbon level in 800,000 years. We have increased

temperatures, along with unraveling environmental systems, out of control fires, melting permafrost, and other devastating climate related events facing us. John Holdren led the way in negotiating with China for the U.S. to participate in the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Although 194 countries signed the agreement, countries are allowed to set their own intended nationally determined contributions to cutting back on carbon emissions which are to be updated every 5 years. Although the Trump administration does not want our country to participate in the agreement, it would take 4 years to withdraw. There are four options facing the country: withdraw; stay in the agreement and do nothing; stay at the table as many fossil fuel companies suggest; or walk away, even if breaking international law. It is not clear yet which direction the country will go.

With regard to another issue facing the nation, Trump has not favored the Clean Power Plan. This plan allowed the EPA to give states goals to cut emissions by 2022 and would reduce power plant emissions by 32 percent compared to 2005. The Plan is still in place but before the D.C. Circuit Court. It would take years to unwind.

Another concern is Climate Science Funding. Trump proposes to cut the EPA by 30 percent, eliminate NASA climate change research, and cut the budget of the National Science foundation by 10 percent. This would be just the beginning of an anti-science set of moves, no doubt.

David McGlinchey did give some reasons for optimism. He noted that appropriation bills require 60 votes in the Senate. So our outreach to our Democratic representatives, Warren and Markey, is key. In the short run, budget funding will probably be by Continuing Resolution so spending will remain at the same level for some time. State policies around the country may be positive. In MA, two carbon tax measures are in front of our legislature. California pledges to launch its own “damn satellite” if NASA launches are cut. There is an economic momentum for saving energy at this time. The Kentucky Coal Museum has just put on solar panels! And finally we have handled global problems before in history; examples being small pox, the ozone layer hole, etc. And finally as George Woodwell has said, “ I have to be optimistic, as what other choice is there?”

Tom Stone, retired from the WHRC, noted that three key efforts have to be: replace forests, stop using fossil fuels, and create a carbon tax where possible.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor and **Martha Gillis**, FDTC photographer

Calendar: next FDTC meeting is May 10 (a week earlier than normal) for discussion of ballot items on the May 16th Ballot.

Saturday, April 29th: People’s Climate Movement and March from Marine Park to Peg Noonan Park will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with walk starting at 2 p.m. from Marine Park: electric vehicles with test drives, solar and energy efficiency demos, net zero home information and poster making for the March.

FDTC Officers:

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

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

Annual membership Fiscal Year: April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018

Please note that annual dues should now be submitted as below. Thank you.

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