

## **Chatham-Harwich Newcomers General Meeting**

March 15, 2010

President Mike Cimini welcomed everyone to the General Meeting and introduced Jack Wyatt who introduced our speakers: Judy Thomas, Elizabeth Levy from the League of Women Voters and Ed McManus and William Litchfield from Chatham.

Judy spoke about the League of Women Voters and Town Meeting. If our democracy is going to function at optimal level, we need more involvement. She likened Town Meeting like improvisational theater – part scripted but then everyone who attends has an opportunity to speak. She attends because she wants to be informed and not read about it in the paper. She wants to do her duty as a citizen.

Elizabeth Levy is the Voters Service Chair. She gave us a history of the Town Meeting and the League. Voters have a chance to learn, participate and speak their mind. It is Democracy in its purist form.

Ed McManus is Chairman of the Selectman of Harwich. He went over the process of town meeting and how the warrant is developed and articles are prepared for Town Meeting. His feeling is Town Meeting is a good way of keeping community together.

Attorney William “Bill” Litchfield is the Chatham Town Moderator. The Moderator allows people to speak and keeps the meeting from disruptive people so there is respect and dignity at the meetings. A quorum is required. The Moderator recognizes who will propose a motion.

A very interesting presentation and well received.

Mike Cimini took a vote for the January minutes and they were accepted as posted on the website.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Mike Cimini. Collected \$1591 in dues and activities with \$1309 in expenses. We currently have \$7885 in the bank, have no outstanding bills and have available working capital of almost \$4154 versus \$4356 a year ago in March of 2009.

Vice President, Eve Dalmolen reported that the L’Alouette Bistro luncheon in February was very successful. The Spring Luncheon April 26 is at the Barnstable Tavern. There are 10 spots left for the Clambake in June, otherwise they will be opened up to CONCH. There are window clings for cars and baseball caps with the Chatham Harwich Newcomers Club logo on them.

Dave Ryer, Travel Chairman reminded people to check the flyers on the table outside for trips and upcoming events. If anyone is planning on attending the Secret Luncheon on March 26, he needs to know today.

Membership Chair Bob Sarantis reported that we currently have a total of 403 members.

The Nominating Committee has been formed and will be meeting on March 17. Linda Devonshire is the Chair. There are quite a few position openings at the end of the year and need to be filled.

If anyone has access to a video projector and would be willing to work with the club, please let Mike Cimini know.

Announcements:

Sheila Nevin from the United States Census 2010 has brochures available if anyone would like to participate in the census. They pay \$16 per hour plus mileage. Training is involved and a short test.

Meals on Wheels part of Elder Services wants to help to make sure no senior in the United States will go hungry. There is a petition to sign and a tablecloth that will be displayed on the White House lawn.

Elizabeth Bridgewater from Community Development Partnership highlighted the organization. They are a nonprofit dedicated to addressing affordable housing needs and encouraging small business development and job growth on Cape Cod.

Jack McDowell spoke on behalf of the woodworks group. They recently completed two projects and are interested in any specific projects that a non profit organization might have.

Jack also strongly encouraged everyone to get involved in the Newcomers Club by heading some of the committee's or becoming an officer.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann O'Callaghan  
Secretary