

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Nominating Caucus was convened in the Hearing Room of the Town House on January 28, 2019 at 7:30 PM. The Town Clerk asked voters present to sign in and obtain a ballot from election officers.

Call to Order

Under MGL Chapter 53, §121, Town Clerk Kaari Mai Tari called the meeting to order and declared nominations for Chair of the Caucus to be in order. Eric Van Loon of 95 Martha’s Point Rd. was nominated and seconded. There being no further nominations, there was a motion made and seconded to close nominations.

Chair of the Caucus

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to elect Eric Van Loon as Chair of the Caucus.

Mr. Van Loon reported that he had inspected the Notice of the Caucus for compliance with MGL Chapter 53 §118 and found it to be in order. The Notice was posted in eight places throughout Concord and a notice appeared on the Town website and was distributed electronically to subscribers of “News and Notices.” Mr. Van Loon declared that a quorum of at least 25 registered voters was present and called for nominations for Clerk.

Ruth Lauer of 100 Keyes Rd. was nominated and seconded. There being no further nominations, there was a motion made and seconded to close nominations.

Clerk of the Caucus

Mr. Van Loon declared Ruth C. Lauer to be Clerk of the Caucus.

Mr. Van Loon stated that the purpose of the Caucus is to fill nominations for elected office in Concord. In the March Town Election, the offices to be filled are one Town Moderator for a one year term; two members of the Select Board for 3-year terms; two members of the School Committee for 3-year terms; one member of the Concord Housing Authority for a 5-year term and one member of the Concord Housing Authority to fill an unexpired 3-year term.

Mr. Van Loon described the process for Caucus as prescribed in MGL Chapter 53 §121: if more than one person is nominated for an office, the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be declared nominated for such office; if there is a tie vote among candidates receiving the *smallest* number of votes, which but for the tie would entitle a person receiving such number to appear as a nominee, all candidates participating in such tie vote shall be nominees; if a person receives less than 8% of the votes of those voting for nominees, he or she shall not be declared nominated.

Mr. Van Loon called for a rule of the meeting, as has been the Concord tradition, that if the number of persons nominated as candidates for office does not exceed twice the number of persons to be elected to such office, the Chair shall, unless there is a request from a voter present that a ballot be taken, declare such persons to be the nominees of the Caucus for such office.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to adopt the rule of the meeting as discussed.

Town Moderator

Mr. Van Loon called for nominators for the office of Town Moderator to step forward. Mr. Steven Ng of Dalton Rd. nominated Ms. Carmin Reiss of 52 Devens St. as a candidate for re-election as Town Moderator. Mr. Ng reported on the many services that Carmin has provided the Town in her 30-year residency through both committee appointments and elective office. He stated that he has worked with her and has admired her leadership, her ability to

Call to Order

Chair

Notice of the Caucus

Clerk

Caucus procedure

Moderator

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collaborate with varied views, and to bring us together to become our best. Sigmund Roos of Wood St. seconded the nomination stating Ms. Reiss' special training as mediator has helped to generate orderly and productive Town Meetings.

There being no further nominations for Town Moderator, Mr. Van Loon declared Carmin Reiss to be the Caucus nominee and asked her to rise and be recognized.

Select Board

Mr. Van Loon stated that there are two vacancies on the Select Board and asked nominators to come forward. There were three candidates proposed.

Elise Woodward of Garfield Rd. nominated Susan Bates of 28-6 Concord Greene. She reported Susan's experience on the Finance Committee and her understanding of the budget and fiscal planning needs of the Town. In addition, Susan is impartial, clear, and committed to civil discourse. Jeff Campbell of Musketaquid Rd. seconded the nomination citing his respect for Susan's abilities.

Thomas Tarpey of Heath's Bridge Rd. proposed Terry Ackerman of 89 Heath's Bridge Rd. as a candidate for Select Board. He stated that his term on the Finance Committee overlapped with hers and he found that she provided a unique perspective and contributed to well informed discussion. In addition, she has served on the Community Preservation Committee. Cynthia Rainey of Holden Wood Rd. seconded the nomination citing Terry's ability to hit the ground running due to her professional experience, understanding of Open Meeting Law and the role of the Select Board.

Paul Horwitz of Hayward Mill Rd. nominated Thomas McKean of 138 Nashawtuc Rd. to a second term on the Select Board. He noted Mr. McKean's experience as an attorney as an essential component of the habits of mind needed to inform debate. In addition, Mr. McKean will provide the continuity needed in the transition to a new Town Manager. Anne Umphrey of Old Bedford Rd. seconded the nomination noting Mr. McKean's abilities as a facilitator of a new committee with a short time to complete its task. In addition, she stated the Mr. McKean has been responsive to public input on both small and large issues.

There being no further nominations for the office of the Select Board, Mr. Van Loon declared Susan Bates, Terry Ackerman and Thomas McKean to be Caucus nominees and asked them to stand and be recognized.

School Committee

Mr. Van Loon stated that there are two vacancies on the Concord School Committee and asked nominators to come forward. There were two candidates proposed.

Lisa Bergen of Oak Hill Cr. nominated Cynthia Rainey of 80 Hunter's Ridge Rd. to a term on the School Committee. She noted that Cynthia has been involved in the community for many years including observing committees and engaging with schools where her goal is to maintain quality. She is energetic, and passionate as well as being skilled. Janet Rothrock of Annursnac Hill Rd. seconded the nomination and cited Cynthia's community activism serving as President of the League of Women Voters.

Tim Hult of South Meadow Ridge nominated Yuval Erlich of 4 South Meadow Ridge. to a term on the Concord School Committee. Yuval is a 6-year resident whose boys attend CCHS and where he serves on the School Improvement Council. Mr. Hult affirmed Yuval's passion, administrative strengths and his ability to bring together and synthesize diverse opinions. Dave Eaton of Everett St. seconded the nomination, citing Yuval's understanding of large organizations with a diverse perspective.

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There being no further nominations for the office of the School Committee, Mr. Van Loon declared Cynthia Rainey and Yuval Erlich to be Caucus nominees and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Concord Housing Authority

Mr. Van Loon stated that there is a vacancy on the Housing Authority and asked nominators to come forward.

Mary Johnson of Laws Brook Rd. nominated Ned Tar Lerner of 34 Everett St. to the Concord Housing Authority for a second term. She noted that Ned has kept aware of both local and state housing issues with enthusiasm. Vince Carlson of Everett St. seconded the nomination and noted that Mr. Lerner is very hard working, and a good listener to his constituents.

Mr. Van Loon stated that there is a three-year unexpired term on the Housing Authority and asked nominators to come forward.

Yuval Erlich of South Meadow Ridge nominated Fatima Mezdad of 155 Powder Mill Rd. Ms. Mezdad is a 3-year resident and a good friend and communicator. She will bring both passion and diversity to the Housing Authority. Court Booth of Wright Rd. seconded the nomination, noting Ms. Mezdad's commitment to public service and interest in protecting the housing assets of Concord.

There being no further nominations for the office of the Housing Authority, Mr. Van Loon declared Ned Tar Lerner and Fatima Mezdad to be Caucus nominees and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Mr. Van Loon thanked the more than sixty registered voters who attended the Caucus. He noted that it is possible to run for elected office in Concord without benefit of nomination by the Caucus. Anyone wishing to do so must submit a petition signed by fifty registered voters to the Town Clerk before February 5. The paperwork can be picked up from the Town Clerk's Office in the Town House.

The League of Women Voters will host a Candidate Forum on March 17 at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center

The Town Election is on March 26. Polls will be open all day.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED adjourn the Nominating Caucus and conclude business for the evening.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth C. Lauer, Clerk