

Boston Ward 5 Democrats - January 22, 2019 - 7 pm

The regular and duly noticed January meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was called to order by Chair Kenzie Bok (the Chair).

Approval of the Minutes

Jay Livingstone moved that we accept the minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. The motion passed.

Membership Matters

The Chair spoke in memorial of long time Ward 5 member Mary Clayton Crozier.

No one was eligible for nomination to membership. The Chair explained to guests the process for membership on the Ward committee.

Legislative Updates

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz spoke to the committee regarding the proposed legislation regarding AirBnB. Legislation was finalized and passed on December 20, 2018 and signed by the Governor on the 28th. Key components are the creation of a statewide registration and publicly accessible registry, and a 5.7% tax, with an additional tax of 3% for multiple rental units. A portion of the tax revenues will go to affordable housing. Definition of short term - anything less than 31 consecutive days. Rep. Michlewitz also spoke about reprincincting of Boston, voter access and rights, translation of absentee ballots; peer to peer car sharing.

Rep. Jay Livingstone spoke to the committee regarding proposed changes to the Commonwealth's abortion laws, including parental consent rules and access to abortion for women in financial difficulty. Rep. Livingstone also discussed civil forfeiture (seizure of property related to a crime); early voting for all elections; traffic congestion and a local option to tax parking garages for infrastructure and transit; alleviating the SNAP gap and creating a common application for both SNAP and MassHealth.

City Councilor Zakim spoke to the committee about a rolling agenda in the coming year, including civil rights, housing, recovery, early voting in municipal elections (home rule petition), and the BPS investment plan. Councilor Zakim also discussed the proposed Long Island bridge recovery campus pilot program, and Boston's efforts to persuade non-profits, which are exempt from property taxes, to make voluntary payments which would amount to approximately 25% of what their tax bill would otherwise be.

Ward Business and Announcements

The Chair addressed upcoming areas of political interest to the Ward, such as the EJC Walk to the Hill for Legal Aid, coming up on Thursday.

Adrienne Zak moved that the January meeting of the Boston Democratic Ward 5 Committee be adjourned, which motion was seconded by Jim Berkman. The motion passed.

Attendance

Members

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli

Jim Berkman

Bob Binney

Kenzie Bok

Suzanne Comtois

David Crossman

Sharon Durkan

Kate Gallivan

Mike George

Sharon Hucul

Kathy Judge

Rep. Jay Livingstone

Anthony Lombardi

Mike Maddalo

Patrick McDonough

Kristen Mobilia

Rajan Nanda

Rob Whitney

Adrienne Zak

Councilor Josh Zakim

Guests

Therese Byrne

Julie G---

Susan Hamillir

Landon Lamoine

Patrick Lyons

Charles Mason

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

Enid Pope

Lucy Rivera