

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

February 18, 2025, Meeting

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was held in person and online via Zoom.

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli, stepped up to run the meeting in Bob Binney's absence. There were technical difficulties with Zoom. Rob Whitney sent out a corrected Zoom link, which some participants were able to access. Hilary expressed her gratitude to those who were able to attend in person and online.

She called the meeting to order, notifying attendees, per MA law, that the meeting was being recorded.

Membership Matters

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Review of the January minutes was tabled. Both the January and February minutes will be discussed at the March meeting.

Associate Member Nominations Elected Member

Shyam Gopaladesikan is eligible for membership. He may not have had the correct Zoom link, and was not present, so the committee could not vote. If he is present at the March meeting, we will consider it at that time.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported the following

General Financial Status

-Current Balance (Citizens Bank Account): \$3,918.19
(As of 2/18/25)

Membership Financial Activity

-No. of Members who have paid 2025 Dues (As of 2/18.19): 8
-Dues Payments for 2025: \$560
-Dues for 2025 are payable now.
-Rob indicated that members can pay at any time, while Kathy Judge took issue, asserting that they should be paid by the March meeting.

Payment

-Members who cannot about the full amount are encouraged to contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary
-THE WARD 5 WEBSITE HAS A LINK PAYING DUES SECURELY ONLINE.
-Visit the Home Page at <http://bostonward5dems.org>.
-Click on the link "How to Pay Your Dues if You're a Member."
-At ActBlue, you'll see "Donate to Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee."
General Membership Dues: \$60. First Year Membership: \$25; Student: \$25.

Note: The Executive Committee had recommended no change in the annual membership dues. Rob Whitney established that there was a quorum for voting. There was a motion to keep dues at the same level. Motion approved.

- Kate Gallivan asked if ActBlue has had problems with hacking.
- Rob said he has two ActBlue accounts, with no problem. He welcomes sending checks to his home, as the Citizen's Bank branch he uses is close by.

Guest Speakers

Emily Norton, the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA)

- Emily, executive director, discussed the history and current state of the Charles River.
- The river was "super polluted in the past," from sewage and industrial waste.
- In the 1800's "the stench was nauseating," and Emily remembers that it still smelled bad when she was a child.
- Hilary shared how after her mother fell into the river, she was ill with diphtheria for a year.
- Emily noted that significant cleanup progress has been made.
- The \$5 billion spent in has transformed the quality of life in Greater Boston.
- More needs to be done, particularly re: the old infrastructure, and climate change.
- Raw sewage still flows into the Charles after major storms (website, crwa.org/cutthecrap).
- On "red flag" days, rowers with sores on their hands risk contracting infections.
- She encouraged members to get involved and sign up for the newsletter to stay updated.
- Kate Gallivan said she often hears of volunteer opportunities after the fact.
- Abigail Gabrieli provided a link to the website for the CRWA in the Zoom chat.
- Coming up: The Earth Day cleanup is Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th from 10 am. to 12 pm.

Other Items/Events

What's happening and what the committee can do

- Attendees were invited to share their ideas for involvement.
- Steve Farrell, the executive director of the Fenway CDC, will speak in March.
- Bob Binney and Mark Mantell will contact our U.S. and state reps to speak.
- Kristen Mobilia and Bob Binney will introduce a "micro activism menu."
- Supporting AG Andrea Campbell was discussed; Rob Whitney to reach out to her chief of staff.
- He also maintains an email list of activities.
- Pat Amend suggested reaching out to Mass Dems Chair Steve Kerrigan.
- Hilary mentioned the Spending Blackout on February 28th.
- Pat asked that other ideas be sent Bob Binney so they can be posted on the website and Instagram.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Attendance

Members	Guests
<p data-bbox="188 338 305 365"><u>In Person</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 369 459 401">Hilary Bacon Gabrieli</p> <p data-bbox="188 472 272 499"><u>Online</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 504 558 535">Abigail Gabrieli (she/her) (Me)</p> <p data-bbox="188 539 532 571">Hilary Bacon Gabrieli (Host)</p> <p data-bbox="188 575 456 606">Nancy Street (she/her)</p> <p data-bbox="188 611 375 642">Patricia Amend</p> <p data-bbox="188 646 362 678">Sharon Hulcul</p> <p data-bbox="188 682 396 714">Bridgid Williams</p> <p data-bbox="188 718 370 749">Patrick Hickox</p> <p data-bbox="188 753 399 785">Gretchen Bennett</p> <p data-bbox="188 789 375 821">Hermal Sampat</p> <p data-bbox="188 825 355 856">Kate Gallivan</p> <p data-bbox="188 861 383 892">Katherine Judge</p> <p data-bbox="188 896 380 928">Robert Whitney</p> <p data-bbox="188 932 337 963">Susan Smith</p> <p data-bbox="188 968 745 999">Suzanne Comtois (attempted to join but did not</p> <p data-bbox="188 1003 407 1035">have the new link)</p>	<p data-bbox="777 590 889 617"><u>In Person</u></p> <p data-bbox="777 621 938 653">Emily Norton</p> <p data-bbox="777 657 922 688">John Achatz</p>

