

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

April 15, 2025, Meeting

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

Bob Binney called the meeting to order, giving notice, per MA law, that the meeting was being recorded. He gave a brief history of his experience with the Committee, emphasizing how much he has enjoyed it. He also pointed out that many members are older, and we need younger people!

Membership Matters

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

The March minutes were sent out by Shari Franzetta, as part of the meeting packet. Noting that they had been carefully reviewed by him, and by Shari, Rob Whitney and Pat Amend, Bob Binney called for a vote for approval. They were approved.

Associate Member Nominations Elected Member

Shyam Gopaladesikan, who is eligible for membership, was nominated at the February meeting. He was not present so the committee will vote on his membership at the May meeting. Livio Valenti was present, and the committee will take up his nomination next month.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported the following

General Financial Status

-Current Balance (Citizens Bank Account): \$4,880.29 (As of 4/15/25)

Membership Financial Activity

-No. of Members who have paid 2025 Dues: 17

-Dues Payments for 2025: \$1,220.

-Dues for 2025 are payable now

-Members can pay via links on the website, or by check, and additional donations are always welcome

Payment

-Can't pay the full amount: contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary

-THE WARD 5 WEBSITE LINK FOR 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," to connect with ActBlue

-You'll see "Donate to Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee"

General Membership Dues: \$60 First Year Membership: \$25; Student: \$25

-There's no \$60 option at ActBlue, but there's an "Other" category

-Sharon Durkan has fixed the link to include a \$60 option

Other Items/Events

2025 Caucus, Convention, Etc.

- Elected 18 delegates (11 women, 7 men)
- Convention is scheduled for September 13th in Springfield
- Wisconsin: Excellent results in its Supreme Court Election
- Hands-Off!: Huge numbers in Boston Common and at City Hall

Ward 5's Call to Action

- Bob Binney: Boston Dems Ward Coalition in Action is being organized with all Wards in the City
- First move: April 9 letter drafted and sent to the MA Congressional Delegation
- It is up to Democrats in Congress to hold Trump, Musk and House Republicans accountable
- They have "utterly failed to meet the moment"
- A push to oust Chuck Schumer
- Signed by a total of 38 committees throughout MA
- Two Forums to be hosted by Wards 1,4, 5, 10, 11,15,17, 18, 19 and 21
- Mayoral Forum, Thursday, May 15th
- City Council At-Large Forum, Monday, June 16th

- The 250th Celebration of the Revolution: April 18th of this year, Paul Revere's Ride
- Kenzie Bok: See the City of Boston website for details of local celebrations
- The national event next year

Guest Speakers

Will Onuoha, At-Large Boston City Council Candidate

- Lifelong Bostonian
- Held key roles in Menino, Walsh, Janey, and Wu administrations
- Now: Assistant General Counsel & Director of Health and Safety, Boston Water & Sewer Commission
- Campaign is focused on workforce housing, education, and public safety
- Emphasizes the need for workforce housing, targeting those earning between \$60,000 and \$200,000
- Convert vacant office buildings and unused school buildings into residential units
- Will rapidly increase housing stock
- Supports building high-rise developments and increasing density in neighborhoods
- Cites federal law that mandates cities to provide adequate housing

Alexandra Valdez, At-Large Boston City Council Candidate

- Immigrated to the U.S. at age 9 from Dominican Republic
- Lived in many neighborhoods: Roxbury, JP, Mission Hill
- Understands different perspectives
- 10 years of service, City of Boston
- Field organizer for Matt O'Malley's 2014 re-election campaign
- Neighborhood services, JP
- Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement
- Now: Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs
- Focus: home ownership; generational housing
- Making sure that every single service is accessible to all communities
- Watched her mother figure it all out

Steve Farrell, Executive Director; Ed Quinn, Real Estate Project Manager, Fenway CDC

- Discussed a proposed affordable homeownership project at 27-29 Hancock Street in Beacon Hill
 - The Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC) to create 15 affordable units
 - Fenway CDC is involved in this project due to its expanded development area
 - Focus: Affordable housing, community organizing, and resident services
 - Acknowledged support by Rep. Jay Livingstone, City Councilor Sharon Durkan, and the Mayor’s Office
 - Provided more details about the project's location and context
 - Converting two former single-room occupancy buildings, 27 and 29 Hancock Street
 - Mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units, with various income limits
 - From 350 to 780 square feet
- Question: Is that too small? Answer: Depends on the design

Future Schedule Up Until the Election

- Mark and Bob will be invite all our Ward 5 Representatives

Sub-committee Leads

- Website Preparation: Pat Amend
- Speaker arranging: Mark Mantell
- Social Media support: Kelly Zeilman and Joshua Calianos

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

Attendance

<p>Members</p> <p><u>In Person</u></p> <p>Bob Binney Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Mark Mantell Jonathan Spillane Rob Whitney</p> <p><u>Online</u></p> <p>Pat Amend Diane Barry Kenzie Bok David Crossman Abigail Gabrieli (she/her) (Me) Kate Gallivan Sharon Hucul Mary Garippo Nancy Street</p>	<p>Guests</p> <p><u>In Person</u></p> <p>Steve Farrell Brandon Dunn Will Onuoha Ed Quinn Molly Twarey Alexandra Valdez Livio Valenti</p>
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