

Unifed Libertarians of Massachusetts

State Committee Meeting of July 13, 2023

A regularly-scheduled meeting of the State Executive Committee of the ULM was held on Zoom on July 13, 2023.

Present were Dave Burnham, Stephanie , Janel Holmes, Tom Eddlem, Charlie Larkin, Justin Costa, John Pasniokas, George Phillies, Brian Z. Atty. Cameron Atkinson, Victoria Costa, Mike Brigham, Aimee Brigham, Brodi Elwood, Jason Brand, Aaron M. (?), and Pat Ford. Brandi Bishop joined late.

The meeting convened at 7:03 P.M., with the Chairman presiding, the June's minutes were approved with Charlie motioning, and Justin seconding, and Charlie's thanks to Jason for covering last month.

Atty. Cameron Atkinson was introduced by Janel as an attorney seeking to file suit against the Commonwealth over its grotesque firearms laws, and he is seeking plaintiffs, including the ULM as an organizational plaintiff, in an effort to overturn or modify the firearms laws in the waken of the *Bruen* decision by the Supreme Court. The two particular lawsuits are the "assault weapon" ban and ban on large magazines, and the prohibition of people ages 18-21 from receiving handguns. Mr. Atkinson believes that the weapons ban is a very easy win, largely because of *Bruen*. An interesting fact: the AR-15 is more popular than a Ford F-150 in America. Atty. Atkinson is seeking former law enforcement, military, or ordinary citizens who want a more powerful weapon, but are not able to get one.

The age ban is a bit more of a challenge, largely because of finding someone of that age who's willing to step up and attach his name to the suit as a defendant, but, if that can be done, the suit is probably winnable.

Mr. Atkinson is working with a Massachusetts-admitted lawyer.

Dave asked to clarify. We will have no out-of-pocket expenses, but will be asked to help provide people and manpower as needed.

Brian asked about those of us who own "said firearms," for Brian's protection, Mr. Atkinson stopped him from violating his own 5th Amendment rights.

Brodi asked about how the criteria for plaintiffs was arrived at, and how to best find people. Cameron described his process briefly, reminding us all that every case has its warts; his job is to figure out how to deal with them. Cameron also noted that litigation is unpredictable, and predicting a particular party's level of involvement is hard to predict, including depositions and questioning. A deposition in the Connecticut case of similar description had taken about two hours. As to consequences of naming yourself, people should be ready for a certain amount of publicity. If you see a news truck at your house, you have a right to refer the press to your attorney. Handling work issues, especially if you're a government employee, is something you need to navigate, but he will advise you.

Justin noted he spoke to Cameron earlier this week, and had a good conversation. On behalf of George Phillies, Justin asked about funding. Justin also asked about *Ceatano* (sp?), the stun gun case, which will most certainly factor in, as it's a weapon "in common usage." The costs of the case are, in

all likelihood, being borne by The Second Amendment Foundation and another organization called We, the Patriots. The funds are placed in trust to cover costs, with fees collected from the State(s) at the end of the case.

Dave called for a vote to sign on. Charlie moved to add ULM to the suit. Dave noted he wants to buy a Glock, but can't. George spoke a bit about his suit from about fifteen years ago, and Cameron told him what things are looking like now. Justin and Brodi worked together to word the motion formally, and Brodi motioned, Justin seconded, the motion passed. The motion passed unanimously, worded as follows:

The Unified Libertarians of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts affiliate of the Libertarian Party, agrees to be an organizational plaintiff in a lawsuit in federal court to strike down bans by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on citizen-ownership of "assault weapons" bans, which are blatantly unconstitutional, and encourages its friends and members to sign on as plaintiffs of the case managed by Cameron Atkinson or his designee.

The motion passed.

Justin made an addition to the motion, as follows:

I move that the board endorse Unified Libertarians of Massachusetts involvement as a plaintiff in a legal case challenging the bans on citizen-ownership of "assault weapons" imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By participating in this legal action, we aim to uphold the principles of individual liberty, due process, and equal protection under the law. Our participation will also serve to protect the rights of responsible individuals to possess firearms commonly used for self-defense, sporting purposes, and as a means to ensure protection against potential tyranny.

This did not pass.

Other business:

Tom wanted to discuss the Communications issues, and discussed the issues with removed online posts, and growing friction within the Comms team, and Tom is asking for a new Communications Director in place of Justin, citing culture war, clashing ideas, and other issues.

Janel noted that Tom seems to be shirking responsibility for some of his own missteps, and some misrepresentations he made, intentionally or not. Janel noted that Paul has been removed from the Facebook page, and had stopped work after what devolved into personal attacks and in-fighting. Janel also noted several threats made to Justin by Tom. Janel also gave several examples of differences that exist, and history, noting that some of this behavior has overtones of the Shade Administration from the former committee, and noting the open posting wars that ensued.

At 8:00, Dave needed to excuse himself due to a prior commitment, and Jason took over the meeting.

Brodi asked about some specific evidence, especially regarding the accusations by Tom of calling the LPWC the Pedo Party. Mike Brigham then showed some screen-shots of posts made by Tom.

After a lot of contention, Janel summarized by saying Tom should stick to Treasurer work, and Justin be allowed to work on Comms.

Stephanie noted that we are all in the same direction, and after discussion, she said we should vote on a Comms Director.

Justin noted that he's been submitting platform links for the more controversial issues. Justin noted that a recent case settled the question of rights of children, transgender or otherwise.

Jason asked Justin to hold due to required departures, and recognized Pat Ford. Pat noted he wants to see us working together and getting our internal issues resolved, without diminishing feelings or opinions of others, and to respect differences between each other, because that's what L(1)ibertarians should do.

Tom noted that yes, he did create an alternate Facebook account due to he and others being thrown out, so this was created as an emergency. Tom noted that much of his issue centered around appearances, and the "unjust reputation of the LP being okay with pedophiles."

Mike Brigham was asked to speak by Jason. He noted Tom was the only removal, other people had been having trouble, which seems to be more of a Facebook issue. Tom noted his account was made by admission.

Janel motioned to open nominations for a Comms direction, with simultaneous second from Tom and Charlie. A roll-call vote will be taken.

The nominations opened. Janel nominated Mike Brigham, and Charlie seconded the nomination. Mike accepted. Tom nominated himself, and seconded by Brodi. Brian nominated Stephanie, but she declined.

It was later discovered that Mike is not eligible due to the policy manual, and Mike's name was withdrawn. Janel then discovered bylaws may allow the filling of vacancy, which then resulted in an argument with Brodi over the reading of the by-laws, among other things.

As Brandi joined late, Stephanie nominated Brandi, with an undetermined second. Brandi accepted.

The votes were as follows:

Jason	Tom
Charlie	Brandi
Justin	NOTA
Tom	Brandi
Janel	Brandi
Stephanie	Brandi
Brodi	Brandi
Brian	Brandi
Brandi	Tom

Janel, Brandi and others discussed how to handle things starting immediately.

Stephanie put her membership update in the chat, and then e-Mailed Charlie so he could actually do something with it. It reads as follows:

Membership update - we have 4 new members in July (that contributed digitally, any direct check to Tom as treasurer I am not at present aware) - the contributions from those new members was \$330. This followed an email that I sent out July 4 regarding Defend the Guard.

I (point of clarity, Stephanie wrote this in an e-Mail to me, I simply copied and pasted it,- CHL) would like to organize an ULMA picnic at Hopkinton State Park (300 picnic tables, 165 charcoal grills, swimming, public restrooms and more) - for August 19 (rain date August 20). If anyone would like to help me plan for this - please let me know!

Brandi asked for phone numbers to set up a Signal chat.

Mike asked about a matter in the Policy Manual, which was discussed.

Charlie motioned to close, Steph seconded. We closed at 8:47.

After closing, Pat noted that we're putting together a fundraiser for Vermont after the massive flooding in Windsor and Lamoille Counties. Olga is putting together things out up there. Links will be available, and Pat has asked them to be shared widely.

A true abstract of the same,

Charles H. Larkin
Secretary