

Minutes of the Androscoggin Country Democratic Committee
March 5, 2026
Edward Little High School room 158
In-person only

Vice-Chair Chris Beam called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The group said the “Pledge of Allegiance”. Then members present introduced themselves.

Secretary’s Minutes for February: Cynthia Peters

David Projansky asked that there be unanimous consent for the Secretary’s minutes. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s report: Mary Roussel

Mary gave the report with both bills paid and donations. After a period of discussion, Chris Beam said that this report would be tabled for now. There was no opposition.

Election of new Secretary:

Alison Harris was nominated by Cynthia Peters. Alison, who could not make this meeting, had sent a paper explaining why she wanted to be the secretary. Chris Beam, following protocol, asked three times, “Are there any other nominations?” As there were none, David moved that the secretary cast one ballot for Alyson Harris. Jane Pentheny seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Caucus follow-up:

Holly Sysko, convener of the Lewiston caucus, explained that both the Auburn and the Lewiston caucuses shared facilities in the Lewiston Middle school auditorium. Alfred Brodeur (Auburn caucus) said that it ran smoothly. Ann Coltman (Lisbon-Durham) explained there were 12 people at their caucus. The major concern that came out in their group was how to get the young people involved in and to know about the caucus. Mary Roussel said there were 39 people in the Auburn caucus. Holly explained that we have 2 years to improve on concerns that people have. Fred explained that the caucus is local and should not be run by county people.

Guest Speaker: Joe Baldacci, Candidate for Second Congressional District House Seat:

Matt Dunlap deferred to Joe who was scheduled to speak later. Baldacci was born in Bangor as the youngest of 8 children. He went to law school and has been a lawyer for 35 years. He served 4 terms in the in the Bangor City Council and was mayor for 2 terms. Under his leadership the waterfront in Bangor was transformed with a walkway and also a place where the waterfront concerts are held each summer. He was elected 3 times to the Maine Senate and was Chair of the Inland Fisheries Committee.

If elected he would ask to be placed on the Agriculture and Transportation Committees in the U.S. House. After the primary our major work should be to work for Democrats to win the fall elections.

On answering questions he explained that his priorities would be a farm bill and a focus on domestic issues. Health care—he said that 26 % of the Second Congressional District is 65 or older-- so we need to do more investing in health care and in nursing homes. He also would get rid of some of the tariffs which are hurting our farmers and work to get better trading practices especially with Canada, our neighbor and friend.

He pointed out (In a question on foreign affairs) that he had voted in the Maine Senate to restrict the activities of I.C.E. here in Maine. He also pointed out that he believes strongly in our tradition of civilian control over the military. He would also consider term limits for Supreme Court Justices. Concerning the ACA (Affordable Care Act), he said that the best way to protect it would be to elect Democrats.

Guest Speaker Matt Dunlap: Candidate for the Second Congressional District:

Matt explained that he grew up in Maine. He worked in a lot of different jobs, including catering, in academic offices, many times working at 2 full-time jobs at the same time. He served 7 terms as the Secretary of State. He spent 8 years in the Maine State Legislature. He was also appointed to a "Commission for Voting Integrity" by President Trump. He had started (While in the Maine legislature) a committee, namely, the Government Oversight Committee.

He went to a House party back in October of 2025. He had become turned off by Golden's voting (as the only Democrat) so many times with the Republicans and his not being available to meet people or to talk with people on issues. Someone asked him about running and he decided to do it. He announced in October before Golden announced that he would not run again.

His big issue is affordability. Young people cannot afford to purchase a home. Many young people cannot afford college or if they do go, they are graduating with overwhelming debt. Also we need to address the issue of child care as we have many grandparents raising their grandchildren. He would support a universal Health Care Bill for all and Medicare for all. He does not support the current President's desire to go after the Federal Reserve System. His big issue again is affordability for families of the ordinary working people. Currently there are more and more cuts to taxes on the billionaires. He would also address the climate crisis and the nuclear crisis. He also would work for a Congressional Oversight Committee to oversee I.C.E. He believes as he quoted from Doctor Salk that it is "Our duty to be good ancestors."

New ACDC Members

Chris Beam asked if there any person present who wanted to become new members of the ACDC. Ann Coltman asked to be re-instated as she had missed several meetings. It was moved by Jane Pentheny that she become a member and seconded by Mary Roussel. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Announcements:

Fred Brodeur announced that he was stepping down as the Chair of the Auburn Democrats and that Dakota Rich (vice-chair) would replace him.

Adjournment: It was moved by David Projansky and seconded by Jane Pentheny that the meeting adjourn. By unanimous vote it ended at 7:39 p.m.

Attendance: ACDC Members; Chris Beam, Alfred Brodeur, Ann Coltman, Jeff Harmon, Alyssa Nile, John Myrand, Jane Pentheny, Cynthia Peters, David Projansky, David Rackmales, Mary Roussel, Evelyn Spencer, Holly Sysko

Guests: Joe Baldacci, Matt Dunlap, Kaila Harris

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia J. Peters
ACDC Secretary

