

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gloucester MA GOP <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 10:41 AM  
Subject: Reminder: Letter to the GRCC Members  
To: <ashleysullivan@[REDACTED]>



July 14, 2023

Dear Members of the Gloucester Republican City Committee:

Some of you may have received emails from Clayton Sova, in which he claims to be the new chairman of the committee, and claims to have the right to call meetings and set agendas.

**Please be advised that:**

- Clayton's 7/2 "meeting" was illegitimate, and is NOT recognized by the MAGOP or OCPF;
- The "meeting" and purported motion to remove violated several local and state bylaws and Robert's Rules;
- Clayton holds **no position** of leadership for the GRCC;
- Clayton must **CEASE AND DESIST** using the GRCC logo, or purporting to be the chairman as he has no legal right to do so.

Clayton has renamed his personal email account so that it appears to be the committee email, and has used the GRCC logo without permission or legal authority to do so, in order to trick members into believing he is a legitimate chairman, when he is not.

Clayton Sova, Irene Sova, Robin Hubbard, Cynthia Bjorlie, Nicole Coles, and Bud Hobbs are the group which has worked for months to cause chaos in our committee, and prevent us from being productive, and sadly, they are continuing to do so. They are ignoring the bylaws of our committee; the bylaws of the state party; the will of the members of the GRCC; the authority of the MassGOP chairman; and Robert's Rules for running committees and meetings.

On May 24, 2023, this committee held a monthly meeting in which Cynthia Bjorlie presented a motion to remove Ashley Sullivan as chairwoman. At that meeting, the executive director of the MassGOP, John Milligan, attended, at Cynthia's request. The motion was voted on, and Ashley was NOT REMOVED. At that point, that issue was concluded. The membership voted, and it was over and time to move forward, together.

Clayton's group instead has decided to completely disregard the vote of the membership- and the functions of democracy

following the vote- and have continued making baseless accusations against members of this committee and calling government entities to report the committee and its members without support for their allegations.

Clayton & Co. independently called a rogue meeting of the GRCC for July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which they intended to take another vote on the motion to remove Ashley. At that point, the Massachusetts Republican Party chairwoman, Amy Carnevale, wrote a letter which we shared with the committee members, advising that the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was not a legal meeting of the GRCC; that the committee was properly organized under Ashley's chairmanship, and that **if anything occurred at a fake meeting of the GRCC(which applied to July 2nd), that the state party, which legally governs all local political committees, would not recognize it.**



MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICAN PARTY

June 30th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to acknowledge and affirm the Gloucester Republican City Committee is a committee in good standing with the MassGOP under the Chairmanship of Ashley Sullivan and supervision of State Councilwoman Ruth Baker and Committeewoman Amanda Orlando.

The next recognized meeting of the committee will be July 26th in accordance with the by-laws. Any action taken outside of this meeting will not be recognized by the Chair.

I issue this letter in accordance with the State Committee by-laws that grant me the "jurisdiction over all disputes regarding local committee operations," and in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 52, Section 4).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amy Carnevale'.

Amy Carnevale  
Chair, Massachusetts Republican Party

400 New Cambridge Park, Suite 303A, Woburn, MA 01890  
T: 617-312-3307 • MASSGOP.COM  
Photo: © 2023 by Clayton & Co. All Rights Reserved

The executive director of the MassGOP, John Milligan, has also advised the Office of Campaign and Political Finance(OCPF) that the Gloucester committee remains organized under the chairmanship of Ashley Sullivan and that any paperwork which attempts to be filed by Clayton & Co. will be rejected as illegitimate.

In defiance of Chairwoman Carnevale's very clear letter dated June 30<sup>th</sup>, Clayton & Co. held a July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of their small group; decided to vote to remove Ashley, and then decided to install Clayton as chairman of the committee.

For an outsider's view on the lunacy of Clayton's actions, please read the attached Boston Broadside commentary: **Clayton Sovo Holds Tiny Revolution on July 4th Weekend, Attempts Overthrow of Republican City Chair? – Boston Broadside Notes Between Printed Issues**

Clayton and Co. have acted completely inappropriately and disrespectfully at our meetings. They have refused to follow the GRCC bylaws, the MassGOP bylaws, or Robert's Rules. They have not respected the will of the members of this committee; they have not respected the duly elected leadership of the GRCC or the MassGOP.

It is clear at this point that keeping them as members of this committee hurts the group, and our candidates, and all of what we are called to do as a city committee under the auspices of the Massachusetts State Republican Party.

As such, on July 26<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our previously announced monthly meeting via zoom, and the following motion is presented from the leadership team:

**Motion to Remove Clayton Sova, Irene Sova, Robin Hubbard, Cynthia Bjorlie, Nicole Coles, and Bud Hobbs as members of the Gloucester Republican City Committee.**

We will hold this meeting on zoom because we wish to have a respectful and orderly meeting, and unfortunately, Clayton and Co. have shown that they cannot behave appropriately at in-person meetings. During the meeting, the motion will be presented by Doug Parsons, secretary of the committee, on behalf of the leadership team. Discussion and a vote on the motion will follow.

We deeply regret that Clayton and Co. have forced us to this point, however, after months of chaos being created by them at meetings; their refusal to work with the group rather than against it; and their outright refusal to follow bylaws, adhere to the direction of the state party chairwoman, or follow basic rules of respect in dealing with others, they have left us with no choice.

Please calendar to be on the zoom call on Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We will send out the zoom link for this meeting as it gets closer.

Very Truly Yours,

The Duly Elected and Legally Recognized Officers of the  
Gloucester Republican City Committee:

Ashley Sullivan, Chairwoman  
Doug Parsons, Secretary  
Linda Charpentier, Treasurer  
Amanda Orlando, MassGOP State Committeewoman  
Richard Baker, MassGOP State Committeeman