

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this morning about a rather serious issue - that has arisen with the committee in Gloucester. I feel it's extremely important that an issue is not only brought to your attention as Regional Chair, but also because I would like the issue to be heard by all members.... so the issue can be resolved, and something like this NEVER happens again. Regardless of where you stand on the political spectrum, I am sure we can all agree in the importance of following – and upholding, MA general law and the bylaws as written. Without them, the MAGOP would descend into chaos and Republicans across the state will be disenfranchised – as they have been in Gloucester....

As chairwoman of the Gloucester Republican City Committee, it was initially my responsibility to organize and properly notice – our committee's re-organization, with the guidance of State Committee members Michael Scarlata, and Lisa Marie Cashman. We called and sent out notice of our reorganizational meeting on April 6th - months in advance, and even discussed it at several meetings. As time went by, the executive committee decided that it was probably best that our State Committee members ran the meeting, as these people are so insanely aggressive, they wouldn't cooperate if we were to run it ourselves!! This is when we found out that Amy Carnavale had called the State Committee meeting for the same day. So, we moved our meeting to Wed, April 10th instead, so they could attend and run the meeting.

Exactly 10 days before April 4th (March 26th) I began getting contacted by members of the committee who had received a letter from Clayton Sova, calling for a reorganizational meeting on April 4th – and he attached a copy of a letter that was sent to myself (as chairwoman) from the City Clerk. At this point committee members became confused and it became an issue/dispute. Our current State Committeewoman (Amanda Orlando) and myself, looked to the MAGOP for guidance. A Zoom meeting was scheduled between State Committeemen Rich Baker & Michael Scarlata, State Committeewomen Amanda Orlando & Lisa Marie Cashman, MAGOP Director John Milligan, and myself.

During this Zoom call, it was decided that in order to promote unity, and so it didn't look like the MAGOP was “picking a side” – a third meeting would be called for April 13th. Our State Committeeman/woman (Michael Scarlata and Lisa Marie) were going to work together on a time and location and Director of the MAGOP, John Milligan - was supposed to get a letter from the party about their decision, with the appropriate notice of meeting time/date/location. We would then disseminate this letter to the committee's membership and encourage them to attend as required by law. Michael and Lisa were also going to contact Clayton and his “slate” about coming together and the bylaws/meeting date. We were supposed to (and did, see attached) email the committee and let them know about the 3rd meeting date, and that our new state committee members would be in touch with additional details.

A couple of days went by and we were informed via group text, that Clayton is not listening and will hold his meeting anyways. Surprisingly enough after that? It was radio silence. When time creeps by and we begin nearing the 7-day mark, committee members start contacting us, once again – asking about the meeting. They just wanted to know what was going on. Being that we had heard nothing ourselves, we didn't have the answers!! So Amanda Orlando once again asks what was going on with the meeting, via the same group text. John Milligan reassures us that he believes Michael and Lisa Marie finally have it figured out.

We wait for a letter or notice, and nothing is forthcoming. Days go by and nothing. Committee members start panicking and I find myself on the phone daily fielding calls, all while being in the dark myself... three days before the meeting. Amanda asks AGAIN about the meeting time/date and a letter - and we go ignored. The calls and texts continue. Finally, nearing 9PM the night before their "meeting" – I am informed by a political friend, out of district, that he heard our meeting was the following day at 10PM at a local restaurant. Imagine my surprise, when someone a district over, has been notified of our meeting date the following morning, when over half of our committee has not been!!

Amanda and myself immediately said something in our group text (about the meeting in 12 hours) as it is NOT legal, the committee had not been properly noticed. I point out that this is also an election of officers, and that there may be committee members who want to run as officers who have not been notified. I am told by director John Milligan, "that's what tomorrow is for". Amanda once again points out that the committee doesn't even know about it, and we go completely ignored in return!! They hold the meeting anyways!! Without noticing half of the committee!! Not only do they hold the meeting, only 20 committee members were in attendance (we're a committee of over 50) and they were only the members that were on Clayton's "slate" or those that he thought was on his side. Furthermore, according to those in attendance – they were told officers had already been decided at his meeting earlier in the week!!

As a result of the decisions and actions of John Milligan, Michael Scarlata, and Lisa Marie Cashman, over half of the committee was completely disenfranchised. Some of these people have been members since the formation of the committee in 2014/2015. As word spread of the meeting and "elected officers", members became upset, and calls/texts/emails began to fly. I've attached some of these emails below.

On Monday, April 15th – Amanda emailed Chairwoman Amy Carnavale and notified her of what occurred with Gloucester's re-organization on the 13th and the disenfranchisement of over half of Gloucester's Republican City Committee. She was told she would speak with director John Milligan when he returned from vacation and that she would be in touch. After several days went by and we heard nothing, Amanda reached out again!! We heard nothing in return.

As a result of the MAGOP's inaction, members have begun resigning. Some instantly via email, some by changing parties and others have responsibilities within the committee and are having to pull out slowly. Gloucester was once an active, united, and vibrant committee!! If it is allowed to happen to us, it can happen to anyone!!

It is my hope that by bringing this to your attention you will understand the threat these sorts of actions/inactions pose - and that regardless of who, what and where – MA general law and the bylaws must be followed, our meetings must be held legally, and the election of officers (regardless of outcome) should be fair and clean.

The MAGOP not only lost registered Republicans over this, but they're also setting a precedent and if this is allowed to continue we will descend into chaos. These bad actors have a history within the committee that many have not forgotten - they have now been installed into office by the MAGOP!! So now they feel emboldened and under the guise of the "precinct project" they have been allowed to wreak havoc throughout our committee's!! This must not be allowed to stand

and the MAGOP must take bold action against those that commit these injustices against our party. Fight for Republicans and they will fight for you. Thank you for listening.

Ashley Sullivan

Former Chairwoman Gloucester Republican City Committee

Former Candidate Republican State Committee 1st Essex Middlesex