

Non-Partisan Resolution

Embedded in and transcribed from the minutes of the Town Club, December 11, 1930

Municipal Government: The chairman, Mr. W. W. Cunningham spoke briefly on the history of the citizens committee and its functions and the desirability of non-political selection of Village and Town officials, except the supervisor, and stated that his committee had consulted with the chairman of the two political parties of the Town whose executive committees approved the plan. He then offered the following resolution, which after discussion was adopted:

Whereas up to the present time the party organization of both major political parties in the Village and Town of Scarsdale have advocated, and generally have aided, the policy of conducting our village and town affairs without regard to partisan political advantage, and

Whereas in pursuance of such policy said organizations at each village and town election usually have agreed upon the nomination of a single candidate for each office to be filled, and

Whereas the result of such policy has been that the standard of public spirit and public service in Scarsdale has been unusually high, and the Village and Town of Scarsdale have obtained the services in public office of many men and women who would not have been available merely as the candidates of a political partying contested elections for village or town offices, and

Whereas it is the sense of the Town Club that our local public affairs should continue to be conducted free from partisan controversies and from petty maneuvering for party advantage, and to that end the Town Club believes it to be desirable to establish machinery for non-partisan nomination of candidates for village and town offices, and

Whereas the town committees of both major political parties, acting through their respective chairmen, concur in favoring the adoption of these resolutions, and

Whereas it is recognized that it is not practicable to include the office of supervisor within the scope of these resolutions,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED.

FIRST: That a non-partisan citizens' committee and a non-partisan executive committee of such citizens' committee for the nomination of candidates for all such village and town offices to be elected at each village and town election be constituted, as follows:

Reasonably prior to each village election and each town election, and not later than the 15th day of January of each year, the president of the Town Club and the president of the Woman's Club acting jointly shall select and associate with themselves three representative citizens. The executive committee of such citizens' committee shall be composed of the three persons so selected, and the president of the Town Club and the president of the Woman's Club; the Chairman of the Republican Town Committee and the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee shall be ex officio members of such executive committee, but neither of said chairmen shall be entitled to a vote in any of the proceedings thereof. Such executive committee shall select two representative citizens from each election district in the Town of Scarsdale, and the persons so selected, together with the said executive committee, shall constitute the citizens' committee.

SECOND: The said citizens' committee, acting through the executive committee, or by such other means or in such other manner as the citizens' committee may from time to time determine, shall investigate and ascertain the names of persons available and qualified for the offices to be filled at the next village or town election, and shall select one person willing to serve for each such office to be filled at such election.

THIRD: In making such selections the said committee shall have regard primarily to the fitness of the person selected for the particular office, but other considerations being equal, it shall be the endeavor of said committee in making said selection to provide, so far as may be practicable, for representation upon the village board and the town board of the various geographical sections of the village, and for representation of the two major political parties substantially in proportion to their voting strength.

FOURTH: The committee shall recommend to the Republican caucus and to the Democratic caucus the name of one person willing to serve for each office to be filled at the next village or town election, and in the event that either caucus or both caucuses shall refuse to nominate any person as recommended, then the committee if it finds it practicable so to do shall procure the independent nomination of such person for such office. The committee shall, however, make no recommendation to either caucus of any person for the office of supervisor.

FIFTH: In the event or the absence or disability of the president of the Town Club or the president of the Woman's Club, a vice-president shall function in the place of the president for all purposes of these resolutions. It is contemplated that the president of the Woman's Club and the president of the Town Club shall act jointly, but that the burden of initiating procedures under these resolutions shall rest with the president of the Town Club.