**Minutes Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting**

February 25, 2020

**ROLL CALL:** Lanny Walter, William Barr, Pamela Ross, Nejla Liias, Breen, Barbara Boyce, Susan Breen, Mike Harkavy, Rick Cousin, Kathy Gordon, John Schoonmaker, Kevin Freeman, Christine Dinsmore, Timothy Scott, Aaron Levine, Mike Cimorelli, Kathleen Gray, Finley Schaef, Nancy Schaef, Helene Listerlin

Guests: Claudia Andreassen, Stan O’Dell, Susan Krompier, Jay Krompier, David Radovonovic, Ken Kleinberg, Dave Minch, Robin Goss, Jeremy Russell

**Approve minutes from January 28, 2020 meeting:** Minutes were submitted for approval as a motion by the Secretary; motion seconded by Mike Harkavy and passed with the exception of correcting the spelling of Julia Solow’s name.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s Report was presented by the Secretary who moved that it be approved. The report is as follows:

Balance as of January 28th $1124.19

Collected at meeting 208.00

Subtotal 1332.19

Check Saugerties April 23 Fundraiser 115.00

Balance $1217.19

The motion was seconded by Christine Dinsmore and passed unanimously.

**Meet our Assembly Candidate-Mary Kraat from Hunter:** She reported in that she was unavoidably late. Rick Cousin said has known her for 5 years. He said she is one of the most intelligent people he’s known. She has lived much of the things she is advocating forand is passionate and angry. Mary is completing her Master of Social Work at Fordham. He said she has answered the call to stand up and we owe it to her to get behind her. The Chair said he hopes she can attend our next meeting.

**Candidates for Town Judge:** The Chair noted that the Search Committee chose to refrain from making a recommendation for endorsement and turned the floor over to the candidates for remarks. Stan O’Dell thanked us for consideration and said he is engaged in petitioning and looking forward to a clean process. Claudia said she appreciated the process and is disappointed to have to do it, but enjoying meeting voters. She said she will take it to the next step and is committed to it being a civilized process.

**Group report on the County Convention:** The Chair recounted the convention and noted that the nominees are from all over Ulster County. It was noted that the Bylaws have gone out for review by the County Committee and proposed amendments by the Bylaws Committee after further review, consideration by the Executive Committee, and further input by Committee members this Spring, before a vote at the next Convention.

**Update on Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Standing Committees:** The Chair noted that Kevin Freeman has stepped forward to be point person for Neighbor to Neighbor and that Committee members in about five Election Districts have elected to go forward with an initial effort. He briefly explained how N2N works and what our goals are. Kevin added that it involves very friendly faces, Democrats who appear to be engaged politically. He said it has been shown to dramatically improve turn-out. The effort will employ use of the Mini-Van, but using paper copies of target Democrats is also an option. He said he has a hand-out that can be given to neighbors when you meet them.

**Standing Committees**

**Local Campaign Coordinating Committee:** Will pass on to Judicial Candidates information on the goals and functioning of the committee.

**Voter Data Committee-expand recruitment of new Democrats:** Kathy Gordon reported that she was looking at 1,500 Democrats that have voted in 2016 – 2019, out of just under 4,000 registered Democrats. There are about 200 voters who have never voted, which may have been influenced by the cessation of purging the voter rolls. She also announced that we have two new committee members who have access to the VAN (Sue Breen and Louise Bloomfield). Kathy added that with Indivisible Saugerties there was a meeting attended by 27 people. Every Saturday from 11-12 she will be at Hudson Valley Dessert Company to talk to people about all they can do to promote our candidates and agenda. She hopes it will help assuage people’s feelings of frustration. She is also organizing groups of “worker bees” to work on tasks as needed. She is trying to have appeal to a broader audience than Democrats.

**Fundraising Committee-Lasagna dinner:** Will be on April 23 with the same band as last year, and a magician. In addition to dessert and salad, there will be a cash bar for wine and beer. Nejla asked about candidate outreach.

**Showing of Dark Waters**: The Chair mentioned the Saugerties Film Society will be showing Dark Waters on April 25th as part of Earth Day, and encouraged members to attend.

**Program Committee-forums scheduled:** March 26, The Shadow Network: Media, Money and the Secret Hub of the Radical Right, Annie Nelson will be here on March 26. This network began in the Reagan Administration and continues to this day. Inquiring Minds will have her book for sale. In May the event will focus on Disinformation Networks.

**Town issues-Girls High School Basketball Team:**

The Chair noted that the town’s Girl Basketball Team has made the Sectionals. The Coach is daughter of Committee member Sue Breen and one of the star players is her granddaughter. He felt it would be good for the Committee to support the team at its games. This Wednesday is the seeding for the playoffs and we will know the game schedule at that time. He said if the game is local, we should go.

*Ethics Law Revision:* John Schoonmaker mentioned a public hearing to a revision to the Town’s ethics laws. It will apply to anyone with supervisory powers. The measure has unanimous support on the board.

*Funding for the Animal Shelter* looks assured through a grant and NYS funds. A naming campaign is being run to raise more funds. Contributors can also donate to have a name put on the shelter’s brick in the walkway.

*Harvester:* The Town will probably be buying a harvester to use in removal of water chestnuts.

*Bail Reform:* The Chief of Police is supporting a memorializing resolution that would support drastic revision to the Bail Reform Act. It would expand the time allowed for discovery, allow judicial discretion in setting bail, and other matters. The Town simply would not endorse what the Village has done. The matter was tabled, may be dead, but in any case, it will not be considered at the next Town meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that the proposal be sent out to the DA and Town Prosecutor. The resolution was requested by the Chief and was written by the NYS Conference of Mayors. Claudia Andreassen noted that the legislature worked for three years to make this revision, based upon the principal that justice delayed is justice denied, and felt that the bill should be given a chance. Aaron Levine wondered if it would be useful to have the DA, Sheriff, or Prosecutor to come to a Committee meeting and share their views. Christine Dinsmore said any program on this should reflect both sides and decided that the Program Committee would look into it.

John added that he and Mike Ivino would again have an open house at the Senior Center.

*Karolys Dumping:* The Committee sent a letter to the Attorney General asking for action and, to date, has not received a response.

**County issues**:

Aaron Levine said the Committee should be having its voice heard about having an early voting site in Saugerties. The Chair said he would make inquiries into it. Last year there was some mention of the possibility of Saugerties having an early voting site.

Kathy Gordon asked for someone with free time to begin tracking the County Legislature, saying it could be done on line. Mike Cimorelli offered to look into it. The Chair recommended it as an interesting window into how democracy works.

**Business issues-SDC Web site:** Thank you Rick Cousin. Rick gave credit to Liz Bailey for her work on it.

**Petitioning for 2020 Candidates other than President-hand out Petitions; training for those in need:**  Make sure all present pick up their petitions. Will be collecting them on March 21 at the Secretary’s house, 67 Livingston Street, in the Village.

**Announcements-Democratic Party Spring Brunch-May 3, Wiltwyck Country Club**

**Saugerties Film Society:** Saturday night at 6 pm there is a program at the Library about the Attica Uprising by the author of a book on the subject.

**Vote Mama:** Luda Gretchen Shirley who ran against Peter King started Vote Mama, an advocacy group for women in politics. Sunday with Didi Barrett at Nejla Liias’ barn from 1 to 3 there will be a fundraiser and all are invited.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Pamela Ross seconded by Rick Cousin and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Barr, Secretary