**Minutes of May 29, 2019 Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting**

**Music:** “Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream”, accompanied by Skip Arthur

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Pam Ross, Mike Harkavy, Judith Lechner, Elizabeth Bailey, Connie Bailey, Susan Breen, Margo McGilvrey, Kathy Gordon, Christine Dinsmore, Finley Schaef, Nancy Schaef, Skip Arthur, Bob Gelbach, Mike Cimorelli, Kathleen Gray, Tim Scott, Kevin Freeman, Rick Cousin, Nejla Liias, John Schoonmaker, Aaron Levine, Lanny Walter, Barbara Boyce

Nonmembers: Nicole Roskos, Barbara Wild, Emily Schirmer, Tamara Schuppin, Lisa Cutten, Yvette Rogers

**Approve minutes from April 23, 2019 meeting (as amended):** The Secretary noted the addition if Susan Breen to attendees and moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kathy Gordon and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer reported on the Committee’s finances and moved that her report be approved.

Balance on Hand 23 April 2019 $1594.03

Collected at meeting 154.00

Deposited from May Fundraiser 4160.00

Check to Costello Campaign 500.00

Check to Levine Campaign 250.00

Check for coffee to HVDC 100.00

Checks for Programs 242.06

Check to music for Fundraiser 250.00

Balance on hand 29 May 2019 $4412.03

Treasurer’s motion seconded by Rick Cousin and unanimously approved.

**In honor of Joan Keefe, presente’- Contribution to Paws:** The Chair noted Ms. Keefe’s long and profound contribution to the Committee and that her passing is a great loss. Her memorial is to be on June 2 at 2pm at the Glasco Firehouse. Her desire was to have any funds in appreciation be in the form of a contribution to Paws (animal rescue organization) in lieu of flowers. Consequently, the Chair moved that some funds be donated in her name. Nancy Schaef said, with respect to her wishes, she felt that we donate money to Veterans for Peace (she was a veteran). The initial motion was withdrawn and Nancy moved that we donate $100 to Veterans for Peace. The motion was seconded by Kathy Gordon, and it passed unanimously.

**Guest Presenter: Lisa Cutten, Candidate for County Comptroller.** The Chair noted that the County Committee will choose which candidate support at the County Convention, June 27.

Lisa Cutten: She noted she has 40 years as CPA, 5 of them in finance for Ulster County. She was appointed as County Auditor in 2006 (prior to creation of County Comptroller). She recounted her story of exposing a contractor’s fraudulent behavior and the resistance to her findings, but her steadfast stance. Her role was later included into duties of Comptroller. She implemented Ulster County’s financial system and has experience as a Comptroller in other jurisdictions. She does not believe the job of Comptroller is political. Questions: Who assigns work? The Charter states the County Executive and Legislature can task the Comptroller, but there is also room for independent work. How important is it for the Comptroller to be a CPA? It is of great value. How long have you been a Democrat? Ten years. She said she was a Republican, first when hired by Republican mayor and told to register as a Republican. She said she became aware that the party does not align with her values.

**Yvette Rogers, Representing Antonio Delgado.** Chair recounted conversations with DC CofS, John Bivono and his offer to come talk to us. Ms Rogers was a campaign worker for Antonio. She pointed out that Congressman Delgado was a co-sponsor of H.R.9, requiring administration to comply with Paris Climate Accord. The focus is on Green jobs, requiring the Department of Labor to research jobs in demand as a result of move to renewable energy. She said Congressman Delgado is committed to Green Jobs in the economy act, but deadline is 2050, which is the date established in the Green New Deal (Committee members present pointed out that the Green New Deal advocates changes being made at a much earlier date). She said the Bill reduces subsidies to oil companies and incentivizes sustainable energy. It also grants to Community Colleges to run trials to support training for workers displaced by shift to renewable energy. She said Congressman Delgado feels signing on to Green New Deal is divisive, unnecessarily so. Bob Gelbach: A useful role would be for Antonio to educate those not aware of how dire the climate situation is. Kathleen Gray: We need legislation that would help river-front communities that will be flooded by sea-level rise.

**State issues:** Finley Schaef reported on the State Democratic Committee meeting. Two resolutions were voted upon, registration for unenrolled voters, and voters wishing to change parties. The Committee passed a rule allowing new enrollees to sign up no less than 25 days prior to election, and 60 days for those changing party.

**Support for Town candidates in June 25 primary- Fred Costello, Nicole Roskos in Green Party OTB; Legislative District 1 County Legislature-OTB for Aaron Levine in Independence Party and Green Party.** Mike Harkavy: Fred is grateful for funds that will be used for mailing to Independence Party voters and ads in Saugerties Times. He will be canvassing June 15 at 10, June 22 at 10 and June 23 at noon. Canvassers are meeting at Leeanne Thornton’s house to distribute packets and turfs to target Independence Party voters. On June 2nd there will be a kickoff from noon to 2 at Leeanne’s house for Fred, Nicole and Leeanne. A large group attending would be helpful.

The Primary is June 25 and volunteers are needed to get results of Independence Party voters.

Nicole Roskos’ pursuit of Green Line.She has a list of Green Party voters and asked if it can be sent out by email to Committee members to see if they know any they can encourage to vote for her. The Chair said that is possible and would be done.

Aaron Levine.He is reaching out to as many Independence Party folks as possible in District 1 (285). Beginning June 7th to canvass and will put together a packet with Fred Costello.

**Sunrise Letter:** Rick Cousin moved that we sign on and it was seconded by John Schoonmaker. Kathy Gordon suggested that we table it until next meeting. The motion, as amended, passed with all except one voting for it.

**Program Committee-Environmental Issues confronting our community-April 24.**  The Secretary reported that a lot of volunteer names were collected. Kathleen Gray pointed out the need to review what communities are now doing in the area of the environment.

**Standing Committees**

**Neighbor to Neighbor**: The County Committee wants us to begin Monday. The Chair said the Committee doesn’t need to do all Election Districts to begin. Kathy Gordon will be VAN leader. We are still in need of a canvassing leader. The Chair suggested that those volunteering to give it a go (Pam, Bill, Nejla, Rick) meet again with Amy to see if it makes sense to do. Kathleen suggested that once we talk to someone, we should be encouraging them to talk to four or five more.

**New Enrollees**. Rick and Tim. Not much response yet, but worthwhile continuing. Kevin made calls and met two people face-to-face. Pam sent out cards but has not followed up with calls yet. Lanny spoke to three people and got emails from all of them. We have received no call-backs and will perhaps reach out to others at the end of summer.

**New Members:** The Chair announced John Remington’s and Luz Mooney’s resignations. The Chair moved that some more structure be made to accepting new members to the committee. It was suggested that the Search Committee could be used. Seconded by Kathleen Gray. Discussion: Rick Cousin wondered if the demand for new members is great enough and was concerned that more stringent procedures might discourage new members. Kathy Gordon expressed concern that using a committee to interview prospective members would be too intimidating. Mike Harkavy suggested using an information sheet outlining duties for prospective members to review and then invite them to join our social period. Kathleen suggested having different levels of membership that would vary the amount of work required and give a way to welcome newly registered Democrats. Tamara pointed out the value of being aware of what is happening, and who to vote for. The motion was amended to require prospective members to attend two meetings, then have a conversation with a member about what’s entailed. The motion, as amended, was seconded by Kathy Gordon. Passed unanimously.

The Chair said there are currently 3 vacancies on Committee: Districts 8, 11 and 7.

**Judge Race-Supreme Court:** The Chair said we are trying to get enough votes to support Cheryl Roberts. The Convention is in August. He said he didn’t know yet if Albany supports her but knows it is not unified.

**Early Polling Sites:** The Chair said he is sorry we could not have one here, but pointed out there are ones in Woodstock and Ulster.

**Clegg Fundraiser on Rip Van Winkle:** The Chair agreed it looks like a lot of fun and encouraged others to join.

**Announcements-Election Inspectors:** Still looking for more.

**Programs:** Christine Dinsmore expressed gratitude for those who helped. She noted that attendance declined. She took the opportunity to announce that Sunday, June 9th, Danish with Dave would be at her house.

**NYHA Hearing in Assembly:** Nejla Liias said 500 people were there and it was riveting. Skip Arthur noted that there was value in learning the other side. People were worried about losing choice and afraid of lowered quality of care, and how much it will cost.

**John Schoonmaker**: Recently appointed to Ulster County Recycling Oversight Committee. Meeting Monday night in Town of Ulster about recycling, 7 PM.

Meet and Greet for John S. at Hudson Valley Dessert Co. on Tuesday.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Margo McGilvrey , seconded by Rick Cousin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Barr, Secretary

Saugerties Democratic Committee