**27 August 2019 Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Song:** “Turn, Turn, Turn” performed by Skip Arthur

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** Lanny Walter, Pamela Ross, Bill Barr, Sue Breen, Christine Dinsmore, Connie Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey, Kathy Gordon, Margo McGilvrey, John Schoonmaker, Rick Cousin, Bob Gelbach, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Kathleen Grey, Judy Lechner, Finley Schaef, Kat Smith, Kevin Freeman, Aaron Levine, Tim Scott

**Guests**: Jeff Collins, LaRissa Shaughnessey, Tamara Schupin, Lauren Barbarie, Marguerite Asaian, Niclole Roskos, Andrew Zink, Starlee Swanyong

**Approve minutes from June 26, and July 23, 2019:** The motion to approve the June minutes was seconded by Christine Dinsmore and passed unanimously. The motion to approve the July minutes was seconded by Mike Harkavy and also unanimously passed.

**Treasurer’s Report :**

Balance as of 23 July 2019 $4,199.93

Collected at August meeting 116.35

Deposit for Election HQ -300.00

Balance as of 27 August 2019 $4,016.28

Motion to approve was seconded by Judy Lechner and passed.

**Guest presenter: Jeff Collins, Candidate for State Senate**

Jeff grew up in Lansing NY, an upstate farm community. He is a Cornell graduate who majored in engineering and computer science. With his wife and daughter, he moved to Woodstock some time ago. He sold his company in 2000 and began the Sudbury School that focuses on democracy and personal responsibility. The school has progressed to the point where he no longer needs to be as active in it. He is on Woodstock Zoning Bd and Treasurer of Woodstock Democratic Committee. He is working for Clegg campaign and plans to work for all Democratic candidates in 2019. His vision for New York is for it to be a leader in setting a progressive agenda, beginning with NYHA (take profit motive out of health care). Important that it will cover Long Term Care since the population is aging. He believes economy can be advanced by working on renewables and improving conditions for the next generation of family farmers. He is also interested in alternative products, such as hemp. Democracy is the core of all we do. He feels we need a live, functioning democracy and we must address voter apathy that arises from feeling among voters that their vote doesn’t matter. Judy Lechner asked about hemp. Jeff explained all the different uses of it, ranging from chemical (CBD) to fabric. Starlee Swanyong asked what can be done to address voter apathy among youth. Jeff: We need to talk about things they care about. Also, being civil to them will go a long way in getting youth engaged.

**Saugerties Coordinated Campaign Plan:** Kathy Gordon reviewed activities that were run out of HQ last year. She said we want to go further this year in creating a voter universe, capitalizing on Mike Harkavy’s and Patti Kelly’s knowledge. We have been talking to Harmon and will meet him again on Thursday. She complemented Nejla Liias’ campaign planthat is ambitious but very realistic. Mike Harkavy added that we will be needing almost 200 canvassers over 8 weeks and will be sending out an email blast to those who have canvassed before. He is hoping that each Committee member will put in 3 hours/weekend (minimum). Candidates should be putting in two to four sessions per weekend. He passed around a sheet for sign-up.

**Committee Campaign Headquarters:** The Chair then announced the store-front property on Partition Street we will rent for the upcoming election and that campaigns will be run out of it. He made a call for volunteers to cover the HQ while it is open. We will be putting together packets for canvassers to use and need volunteers for that. We also need someone who can spend time overseeing work at the HQ. (Bob Gelbach would like to volunteer at the HQ, possibly on Wednesdays.) Still need about $1000 to fund HQ.

**Local Campaign Funding Requests:** The Chair said that in the past, we have made funds available to candidates for their campaigns. To date, we have requests from Nicole, John and Aaron and will let them address that tonight. Decisions on this need to be made tonight. (Next meeting will begin at 5:30 to work on a mailing).

**John Schoonmaker**: John plans to ask for up to $1,000 ($800 for yard signs and the balance for literature). He feels it is important to show that he has a strong organization behind him and feels signs can do that. He’s not asking for funds for a mailer or calls because the Coordinated Campaign is helping him with that.

**Nicole Roskos:** She said she has raised $2500 so far and has $2000 left. Considering another fundraiser. Currently her total costs are $3,500, so she needs another $1,500, mostly for 300 yard signs and printing.

**Aaron Levine:** Does not have a request formulated. He is good for lawn signs, but will need more palm cards at some point. He said he needs to meet with Coordinated Campaign to help decide.

Kathy Gordon asked whether the SDC will do an ad in the local news per usual.

**Funding Decisions:** The Chair asked the Committee to agree to set aside $1,000 for the HQ, seconded by Kathy Gordon. Christine Dinsmore asked if we were reaching out to individuals who contributed last year and Chair said we certainly could do that. Others asked whether we are requesting funds from other campaigns and the public. The Chair responded that it would be easy to make a general request and that it would be simple to do by email. Kathleen Grey urged caution in asking for funds from volunteers. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair moved that the Committee provide $750 to each candidate, that was seconded by Connie Bailey. Discussion: Mike Harkavy noted that we had previously committed $500 for Leanne Thornton’s campaign. The Chair acknowledged that and amended his motion to cover it. Kathy Gordon pointed out that John and Aaron have half the district that Nicole has and our funding should reflect that. The Chair amended his motion to be $800 for John and Nicole and $400 for Leeanne. Kathy suggested $900 for Nicole, $600 for John and $300 for Leeanne. Mike Harkavy seconded it. Bill Barr suggested raising the amount for the last amendment to total $2000 which made $200 available, consequently the proposal was raised to $400 for Leeanne, $700 for John and $900 for Nicole. The motion passed.

The Chair made a request for tables and chairs for the HQ, beginning on 1 September and asked for someone to take the lead in coordinating its installation. Pam Ross said we could begin doing it on Tuesday. Sue Breen also volunteered. It was agreed that set up would begin 10 AM Tuesday, September 3.

**Update on Neighbor to Neighbor:** Rick Cousin and Bill Barr shared their limited experiences. They pointed out it is a very friendly audience, for the most part and easier than canvassing.

**Climate change emergency**: Bill Barr reported that he made a presentation to the Town Board urging them to follow the Committee’s recommendation to make a Climate Emergency Declaration. At their next meeting, the Town Board passed such a resolution and forwarded it to the Ulster County Legislature, NYS Senator Amedore, Congressman Delgado, Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, and Governor Cuomo.

**Sunrise Movement Hudson Valley (letter to Congressman Delgado):** The Chair recounted actions to date. Bob Gelbach said we have spent enough time trying to move the Delgado campaign and moved that we sign the letter. Motion was seconded by Margo McGilvrey. Kathy Gordon amended the motion recommending that we also send a copy of the Town’s Climate Emergency Resolution and explain the part the Committee played in it. Motion passed.

**September 20 strike; protest in Albany:** This is a global. Bob Gelbach moved that we endorse it and encourage the Delgado campaign take part in it. Seconded by Kathy Gordon. Finley Schaef stated that, although he’s in favor of the motion, that no progress will be made until “buildings and roads are blocked”. Motion passed. Action in Albany on the 20th is to encourage the Governor take immediate action

**Report of Judicial Convention:** The Chair recounted Cheryl Roberts’ withdrawal. Christine Dinsmore said she will forward a letter from Roberts in which she explains her situation, which the secretary will distribute. There was general displeasure among Committee members at the turn of events.

**David Clegg campaign-October 10 forum:** The Committee is holding a Criminal Justice Forum on that date at the Senior Center. It will have Dave Clegg discuss his vision of criminal justice reform. Speakers will also include Sheriff Juan Figueroa and March Gallagher who will discuss the economics of Criminal Justice Reform.

**House of Representative Resolution Against Racism:** The Chair moved that the SDC adopt the HR Resolution; seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair said he will take responsibility for disseminating it.

**Committee Membership:** The Chair noted that we currently have four vacancies on the Committee and that a procedure for vetting new members would be beneficial. He asked if anyone would like to part of the Search Committee for developing a process. There were no volunteers so the Chair said he would work on it and discuss it at the next meeting.

**Fall Fundraiser:** The Chair asked if there was energy in the Fundraising Committee to develop this. Christine Dinsmore said she felt October is booked and we should wait until February. (Margot suggested we all just donate $100 instead.) Susan Breen suggested having a table in front of the HQ to sell merchandise or ask for donations. Margot pointed out that we should always have a donation can available at the HQ. It was agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

**C & D Hearing:** Karolys is scheduled to appear before the Town Court Wednesday at 3:30 in relation to a citation he received from the Town. The Chair was uncertain as to what would transpire at the hearing.

**Library Election:** Tim Scott said it will be on September 5 from 11 to 8.Four people are running for two trustee seats. The Budget is calling for a 6.9% levy increase. Resumes are being accepted for position of Director who is resigning and moving to Rosendale.

**Aaron Levine Fundraiser:** It will be held Sept 19 at Rip Van Winkle from 6 to 9 pm. Aaron will send an email so that the announcement can be disseminated.

**Fred Costello Fundraiser:** September 12 at Sue’s Restaurant. Mike Harkavy said to please RSVP by letting him know if you will attend.

**Motion to Adjourn:** The motion was made by Margot McGilvrey, seconded by Rick Cousin and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Barr, Secretary