**Minutes**

**September 24, 2019 Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members**: Finley Schaef, Christine Dinsmore, Kathy Gordon, Rick Cousin, Connie Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Barbara Boyce, Bill Barr, Pamela Ross, Lanny Walter, Margo McGilvrey, Kat Smith, John Schoonmaker, Aaron Levine, Nejla Liias, Nancy Schaef

**Guests:** Michelle Grossbohlin, Margarita Asaian, Janet Asaian, LaRissa Shaunessey, Dave Gordon, Fred Costello, Nikki Costello, Patti Kelly, Michelle Hinchey, Nicole Roskos, Lauren Barbieri, Andrew Zink, Helene Lesterlin

**Song:** Which Side Are You On (with new words) performed by Dave and Kathy Gordon

**Approve minutes from August 27, 2019 meeting:** The Secretary moved that they be approved, seconded by Rick Cousin. Discussion: Corrected the spelling of guest’s names. Minutes were approved as amended.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

Balance August 29, 2019 $4016.28

Collected at meeting 129.00

HQ Contribution from Thornton, Costello 350.00

Contribution from Dinsmore 100.00

Cash Donation Sep 6 10.00

Check to Schoonmaker Campaign -700.00

Check to Thornton Campaign -400.00

Check to Roskos Campaign -900.00

Check for HQ Deposit -400.00

HQ Office Supplies -46.99

HQ WiFi -114,97

Balance September 24, 2019 $2043.32

The County Committee is contributing $900 toward the rent of the headquarters. It was noted that some bills are still outstanding. The Treasurer moved to have the report approved; seconded by Kathy Gordon and approved unanimously.

**Guest presenter: Michelle Hinchey, Candidate for State Senate:** Michelle announced her candidacy for 46th District, New York State Senate. She was born andraisedin Saugerties and attended Cornell Industrial Relations School. She received an internship in communications which led to her current employment in a communications firm. She is on the Board of Directors of the Catskill Center for Conservation and worked to oppose fracking. Her father’s illness was a journey into learning about the country’s healthcare system. She said she has a strong sense of wanting to give back to the community and is particularly concerned about jobs and employment. She worked for the Delgado campaign and agrees with its philosophy that there is a need for bipartisanship and to move forward to build consensus.

Questions:

-Biggest Challenge? Meeting folks, getting to know what they want and finding common ground.

-Does the New York Health Act (NYHA) cover Long Term Care? Aspirationally, yes, but it is not clearly spelled out. She said the proposed NYHA needs work and she hopes to work out effective means to carry out its promise.

-What will be the major issues in the campaign? Right now, it’s jobs. Manmade climate change is also an issue and we need to give it more emphasis than it presently has. Broad band internet is also a major issue. It is a problem for students and businesses. We must address healthcare. The NYHA is a good first step but it needs a lot of improvement.

-Would you vote for the NYHA as currently configured? There is not just one NYHA, and the ones written need a lot of help; for example, union concerns need to be addressed better.

-What is your timeframe for getting off of fossil fuels and at what level? We need to be free from fossil fuels as fast as possible. We must be implementing real things right now and should work toward 100% as fast as possible. Any new development should be viewed through the lens of climate change.

**Saugerties Coordinated Campaign-report on our progress:** The Chairintroduced LaRissa Shaunessey as our Coordinated Campaign point of contact. The Chair noted that a great deal of canvassing has been going on and encouraged others to participate. Kathy Gordon reported that we have knocked on doors of 1,360 people. Very few split tickets. We have encountered 450 strong supporters verses 16 who support the opposition. Mike Harkavy noted that for this weekend, due to the Garlic Festival, we will change where we canvass. Sunday canvass will begin at 1 pm instead of noon.

The Chair noted that there was some concern about the impact of the Garlic Festival on the village. Kathy Gordon pointed out that canvassers using the Minivan can pick up their packets on Friday and not go into the HQ at all on the weekend.

The Chair noted that the time to put out lawn signs is now. We have signs for Dave Clegg and Nicole Roskos. Legal time to place lawn sign is September 26. We should not hesitate to place signs on public land. It is important to remember where they are so they can be picked up after the election. Aaron Levine asked that we try to keep track of where they go so they can be picked up. Fred Costello said it is helpful to have them recycled to the candidates. The Chair said they can be returned to the HQ for the candidates to pick them up no later than 5 PM on November 7th (when the Committee’s tenancy for the headquarters ends).

**David Clegg campaign-October 10 Forum:** Christine Dinsmore discussed the planned forum and noted it is important to have a good turn-out. It is important to have folks there who are supporting our candidates.

**Honor Diversity, Defeat White Supremacy:** New Paltz Women in Black is calling for a rally on November 2. It is a call for solidarity and they want to know if the SDC will sponsor it. It was so moved by Finley Schaef, seconded by Margo and passed unanimously.

**Annual Fall Dinner-October 24 at Wiltwyck Golf Club:** This is a fundraiser for the County Committee and this year it will be honoring Michael Hein. The Chair noted it would be good to have a table for the Committee and said he would reserve one.

**Holiday party:** The Chair noted that Aaron’s fundraiser was at the Rip Van Winkle Country Club and wondered if the Committee wanted to have one there on December 13. He said he would send out an email concerning it so that members could express their interest.

**Resolution to Add Committee Members:** The Chair noted a resolution had been sent out to formalize a process for admitting new members and moved that it be approved. It was seconded by Barbara Boyce. Nine voted for it and three were opposed. Discussion after the vote:

Kat Smith felt that it was not democratic to have the Search Committee provide a recommendation to the full committee. Liz Bailey added that such a process would have been intimidating to her and would have prevented her from joining. Connie Bailey wondered if this would bring greater diversity to the group. The Chair stated it was not his intention to stifle diversity.

LaRissa Shaunessey volunteered that it would have seemed too daunting a process for her to join the Kingston Committee and explained how she was accepted (she was invited by the Chair).

Kathy Gordon moved that we cancel the vote, reconsider the matter and try to reach a compromise. The motion was seconded by Christine Dinsmore. Discussion: Nejla Liias asked for written suggestions for improvement from those who disliked the resolution. Motion as amended was seconded by Mike Harkavy and passed with one nay. The resolution will be addressed at the next meeting.

Comment on discussion: Rick Cousin noted that there seems to be a consistent problem of people not being seen or heard and stressed the importance of arranging the tables to facilitate communication at subsequent meetings.

**Report on C & D Debris Case:** Fred Costello summarized the status of the latest Supreme Court hearing. He affirmed that Judge Mott wants to complete the hearing by October 8 and is optimistic on the outcome. Nejla Liias asked about the County policy on dumping. Fred Costello was uncertain as to its impact but noted that the Attorney General has taken on the DEC case and is working on enforcing it. The town cases against Karolys are going to the County Court since Town judges have recused themselves.

**Announcements-**

**Election Inspectors:** The Chair noted that his experience as a poll watcher was unsatisfactory and he has signed-up to be an official Poll Inspector for the first half of Election Day, Nov. 5. He encouraged others to call the BOE and become Election Inspectors themselves.

**Meet and Greet:** for John Schoonmaker and March Gallagher at Inquiring Minds tomorrow.

**Get Out the Vote on Election Day:** Kathy Gordon said we will have a way to find out who has and has not voted on election day electronically. We will have a game plan to call non-voters toward evening time on election day to get them out to vote which will be discussed at our next meeting.

**Climate March:** Nejla Liias was at UN and noted the high level of energy present there, adding that what we are doing is part of a much larger movement. Christine and Lanny echoed their experiences in Kingston and Albany.

**Campaign for Aaron Levine:** Aaron Levine noted that he has filed paperwork for his campaign and is now eligible to make a request for funds. He asked for $750 for palm cards and costs for maintaining a website and any other costs that may arise. Connie Bailey moved that he get $750; seconded by Skip Arthur. Discussion: General comments on status of coordinated campaign funding and finances of other candidates followed. Margo suggested that we modify amount to $700, saying that we would be financially within our goals. (Andrew Zink wrote a check from the coordinated campaign for $900). Motion passed as amended.

**Andrew Zink:** Treasurer of Coordinated Campaign. He said Casey Cebella, a tremendously capable individual, has stepped up to serve has head of Coordinated campaign. She is also serving as Clegg's campaign manager. He asked for patience and cooperation to help realize our goals of winning for Democrats.

**Fundraiser to Boys and Girls Club:** Held by Mirabellas on October 7. Cost is $35 each for four persons. Carry-out. For each meal sold, $10 will go to the Boys and Girls Club.

**Adjournment:** Moved by the Chair and seconded by Rick Cousin and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Barr, Secretary