**Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting**

**February 18, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**:

Constance Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey, Mike Cimmorelli, Kathy Gordon, Kathleen Gray, John Schoonmaker, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Judith Lechner, Mike Harkavy, Tim Scott, Beth Murphy, John Remington, Nancy EK Schaef, Rev. Finley Schaef, Chris Allen, Kevin Freeman, Rick Cousins, Nejla Liias, Barbara Boyce, Aaron Levine, Lanny Walter, Katherine Smith.

1. **MINUTES** . January 22 Minutes approved. Motion: Nejla Liias, 2nd by Chris Allen. Unanimous.

2. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Contributions collected at last meeting: $103.

Balance on hand: $1,590.37

Report was accepted unanimously.

3. **INTRODUCTON** Don Hackett - candidate for Saugerties Village Mayor.

Listed qualifications: Has been involved with environmental issues for the Village/Town of Saugerties; has been active member of the Ulster County Community Action Committee for 6 years; and he has been a Village Trustee for many years.

Issues of concern to the Village: need of apartment building inspectors due to the rise in the number of apartments; need to correct invasive species in the Esopus Creek; discussion of the Consolidation Study; need to work more closely with the Town Board; parking issues in the Village for shoppers.

Vote in the Village for Mayor - March 19, 2019.

4. **CAUCUS OR PRIMARY FOR TOWN CANDIDATES**

The Chair announced the requirement that a 2/3 vote of eligible voters at this meeting are needed to decide whether we move from a Caucus vote to Primary vote in Town elections.

Discussion followed.

Motion: Lanny Walter read the formal Resolution from Section 6-108 NY Election Law that requires signatures of all Committee Members voting to change the process in Saugerties. 2nd by Mike Harkavy.

Results:

2521.5 Yes 89%

325.5 No 11%

5. **COUNTY EXECUTIVE RACE**

There were two motions. First the question of whether the Committee should endorse either candidate was discussed.

Motion: Mike Harkavy. Kathleen Gray - 2nd

Lanny Walter, Chair amended that the endorsement of a candidate by the Committee require a 2/3 of the vote favors one candidate over the other. Motion passed. 14 in favor; 8 against.

Motion: SDC will endorse Pat Strong or Pat Ryan and one will win if they get 2/3 of the weighted vote.

2nd Rick Cousins. Several members discussed their positions for either candidate.

Measured votes breakdown as such:

2847 total

1898 needed

Final tally: Pat Ryan 928.5 Pat Strong 1918.5

The Saugerties Committee endorses Pat Strong.

6. **OTHER ENDORSEMENTS**:

Motion: Christine Dinsmore moved to endorse Bryan Rounds for County Judge.

2nd by Mike Cimmorelli.

The Saugerties Committee voted unanimously to endorse Bryan Rounds for Ulster County Judge.

Motion: Tim Scott moved to endorse David Clegg for Ulster County D.A.

2nd by Kathy Gordon

The Saugerties Committee endorses David Clegg.

7. **TOWN BOARD CANDIDATES**

Nicole Roskos, resident and Democrat from West Saugerties, was introduced and spoke about her interest in participating in the election process since the Mid-terms. She is an environmental activist and done environmental work for the last 20 years. Nicole has lived in the area for past 16 years, is a mother, a gardener, and an artist.

Leanne Thornton, Town Board member, frequently supported by this committee was introduced.

Fred Costello, Supervisor of Saugerties was introduced.

Motion: Aaron Levine moved that SDC endorse these three candidates for Saugerties Town Board. 2nd by Nejla Liias. Unanimous.

Discussion followed regarding granting of Wilson-Pakula to the Independent candidates for the Democratic line.

Motion: Nancy EK Schaef moved to give Wilson-Pakula to Fred Costello and Leanne Thornton . 2nd - Christine Dinsmore. Unanimously approved.

8. **DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES**:

District 2 - Chris Allen and John Schoonmaker. Committee decided not to endorse either candidate.

District 1 - .

MOTION: Rick Cousins moved that Aaron Levine l be our candidate for District 1. 2nd by John Schoonmaker. Approval was unanimous.

9. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT** - Christine Dinsmore

Reminder: February 28 we are sponsoring a meeting about the NY Health Act at the Senior Center.

10. **DISCUSSSION RE: JUDICIAL CANDIDATES**

Motion: Rick Cousins moved that Lanny Walter be our Delegate to the Judicial Convention and that Katherine Smith be the Alternative. 2nd by Kevin Freeman . Unanimously approved.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Mike Harkavy moved. 2nd Timothy Scott . Motion approved

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy EK Schaef

Temporary Secretary

Saugerties Democratic Committee