**Minutes 24 March 2020 SDC Meeting**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** Bill Barr, Kathy Gordon, Nejla Liias, Finley Schaef, Margo McGilvrey,, Kathleen Gray, Christine Dinsmore, Pamela Ross, John Schoonmaker, Mike Cimorelli, Skip Arthur, Michael Harkavy, Susan Breen, Timothy Scott, Nancy Schaef, Kevin Freeman, Rick Cousin, Katherine Smith, Barbara Boyce, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

**Non-Members:** Mike MacIsaac, Claudia Andreassen, Joe Maloney, Elizabeth Weredyk, Maryanne Wrolsen, Jeremy Russell, Kenneth Kleinberg, Stan O’Dell, Gary Bischoff, Lauren Ruberg

**Approve minutes from February 25, 2020 meeting**:Kathy Gordon seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Zoom Control:** Nejla Liias introduced the format and began by saying this is an open meeting, as usual for the Committee, and laid out the process for its conduct. She asked that members mute their mikes and use the chat function to communicate questions or comments and asked for patience among participants.

**Treasurer’s Report**: See comments.

Balance as of February 25, 2020 $1217.19

Collected at Meeting 137.00

Balance March 24, 2020 $1354.19

The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

**Challenge by slate of 14 competing Democrats**: The Chair reminded the current committee members that they will organize for the primary in June. He noted that how we form together to lead a campaign will be discussed later. (Joe Maloney asked to have the floor but was asked to wait). The Chair noted that objections to signatures collected have been filed for EDs 1,2, 9, 11 and 14. He then asked who on the Committee is interested in helping formulating a campaign plan. Several members responded. These members will have a meeting at a time to be announced later.

**Campaign plan for June 23 Primary-Congress, Senate, Assembly**: Aaron Levine said there will not be a primary for the Congressional seat in our district. State Senate: Kathy Gordon said she had a group of people sending out thank you notes and she talked to Michelle Hinchey’s campaign manager. She agreed to be the link to that campaign for the Committee. Christine is connected to the State Assembly campaign.

**ED 11 filling vacancy**: The Chair noted that Michelle Hinchey has declined the nomination for that ED and asked if anyone knew of any people willing to apply for it.

**Dealing with Coronus Virus-How We Can Help**: Nejla and Christine have taken some leadership in this regard. Christine has collected various resources and added the addiction assist lines, as well as abused children help lines. The information is in the form of a Google Doc. It also contains some inspirational messages. She asked for contributions from the public and she plans for it to be distributed as widely as possible. Helene suggested that we add it to our website, as well, and agreed to discuss it with our web master. She also suggested signing up to “The River” as a good source for non-politicized information—Nejla said a link to it is in the document she and Christine set up.

**Presidential primary-April 28**: The Chair noted that this may be postponed until June. So far it looks like there will be a presidential primary. Also, there is a campaign in Albany to send out absentee ballots to everyone. In some way, it looks like we are all going to be able to apply for absentee ballots and avoid going to the polls. He said there is no harm in applying now.

**Early voting sights-paper voting**: It doesn’t look like we’ll be getting an early polling station.

**Standing Committees**

**Voter Data Committee**: Nothing to submit. Kathy said we have a great team.

**Fundraising Committee-Lasagna dinner canceled.** Maybe have it in the Fall. Other ways of raising funds were discussed by Margo, but she suggested waiting until the end of April. Possibly we can use ActBlue, but Margo said there are other folks, such as Project Resilience that need funds right now. Aaron agreed with Margo and suggested Margo list her home address for receiving checks. Margo gave her address and said it would be fine with her, but recommended waiting to see where major needs lie.

**Program Committee-forum for March 26 canceled**: March event is cancelled, but has not cancelled the May event yet.  **report on Vote Mama**: Nejla expressed thanks for participation at fundraiser and explained the purposes of Vote Mama.

**Town issues**: John Schoonmaker mentioned that the Town Hall is closed to the public. He said that the Board has partnered with Project Resiliency and offered to help any who wanted to join. He said most meetings have been moved to virtual format. He said Saugerties has received the maximum amount of grant for Animal Shelter of $500,000 and that he is confident more funds will follow.

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

Has not been cancelled yet.

**Joe Maloney:** The Chair then allowed some time for Mr. Maloney to comment. He said he would appreciate more advanced notice of our meetings. He said there is a large group of Democrats who would like to be involved in Committee work and that it’s fortunate to have so many people wanting to become members of the committee, adding that all the new candidates are “real legitimate Democrats”.

**Pam Ross** commented that for the last four years that she has been on the Committee, it has always been open for new members. She said the Saugerties Democratic has always been transparent and welcoming, and the Chair has always been open to volunteers becoming involved.

**Adjournment**: Mike Harkavy moved to adjourn, seconded by Margo McGilvery and the motion was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Barr, Secretary

