**Saugerties Democratic Committee 24 July 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call:** Margo McGilvrey, Pam Ross, Skip Arthur, Lanny Walter, Bill Barr, Barbara Boyce, Connie Bailey, Bob Gelbach, Tim Scott, Christine Dinsmore, Kathleen Gray, Frederick Cousin, Nancy Schaef, Finley Schaef, Mike Harkavy, Mike Cimorelli, Judy Lechner, Nejla Liias, Kathleen Holt, John Schoonmaker, Chris Allen, Aaron Levine, Evelyn Stokrocki (non-member), Carolyn Riggs (non-member)

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve June meeting minutes made by Secretary, seconded by Rick Cousin. Amendment suggested by Margo McGilvrey to correct date of Juan Figueroa fundraiser should be July 29th (not June 29). Minutes approved as amended.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

Balance 27 June 2018 $4172.69

Collected at meeting 117.00

Check #154 Juan Figueroa for Sheriff 1000.00

Check #155 Vote Pat Strong 250.00

Check #156 Copy Hut 7/4 Banner 128.25

Check #157 Aidan for Assembly 250.00

Balance 24 July 2018 $2661.44

The Treasurer moved that her report be approved, seconded by Nejla Liias, and approved unanimously. The Secretary designed and ordered 500 Business cards for Committee members’ use for which he requested reimbursement of $24.88. Reimbursement was approved.

R**eport on Coordinated Campaign and SDC Role**:

Carolyn Riggs: The new campaign manager for Aidan O’Connor introduced herself and commented on how close Aidan came in last election. About one week away from identifying target universe and is looking for hosts for staging door-knocking. Coordinating with managers from Delgado, Figueroa and Strong campaigns. The campaign is anxious to benefit from the Committee’s excellent work. They are looking for an office in Catskill and maybe Saugerties. Kathleen Gray will be the Committee’s point of contact. She agreed to provide literature to those campaigning for Figueroa this week.

Nejla Liias spoke about the coordinated campaign meeting at her house. She had invited representatives from Ulster town Democratic committees and members of activist groups. She reported that the campaigns are planning on utilizing Precinct Captains. The Delgado campaign is focusing on this weekend’s “100 days until election” event. They outlined a rough schedule for their campaign, ending with two dry-runs of GOTV in October. There will be weekly updates to precinct captains containing messaging and campaign coordination. The Chair added that the campaigns are trying to find a way to avoid duplication. There was a lot of discussion about data, sharing of data, and much left unresolved. Key next step is finding a youth organizer (DCCC funding). The Ulster County Field Director for Delgado is Dylan Black. Nejla has received emails on miVAN (cell phone VAN) training. They are developing a script for our candidates and encouraging all to do LTEs and Op Eds, and begin making calls to members of community about the importance of the election. The Chair added that some of our neighbors are currently knocking on doors with this sort of information. The local campaign coordinating committee wants to schedule another meeting after this one.

Rick Cousin added that Pat Strong is doing phone banking Thursday nights starting a 2 pm. Mike Harkavy said that the main focus right now should be Juan Figueroa’s primary. This Sat and Sun from 10am to 9pm, Delgado’s campaign is conducting canvassing in Saugerties and elsewhere and will carry packets for other candidates. Kathleen Grey and Katie Holt wondered if an event such as our Candidate’s Forum could be done for all Democratic candidates with break-out rooms. Christine mentioned that Amy Fradon is currently organizing two forums, one for seniors and one for domestic violence, and they would like our help. Mike Cimorelli stated that we, like unions, should be using social media, rather than phone calls, to contact people and suggested using a drawing as a means to collect contact information. A long debate followed about how best to engage people. Nejla thought the emphasis should be on developing a sense of community. Christine Dinsmore suggested we all read “Don’t Think of an Elephant” and then continue this discussion next meeting. Pam Ross suggested that each ED Representatives hold a house party to communicate. Connie Bailey suggested using garage sales for the same purpose. Chris Allen suggested using information from last elections to develop a narrative for candidates. Fred Costello said that, for his campaign, everything mentioned so far works. He seconded the statement about using social media. The Chair suggested we use the October 4 fundraiser to do this. He also seconded Pam Ross’ and Connie Bailey’s suggestions; have community Democratic garage sales, leading up to the fundraiser. Carolyn pointed out that Aidan’s campaign is using Saturdays to have a half day of service providing which is an opportunity to reach out to more needy parts of the community. The Chair asked for a sub-committee to come up with a plan before September. It was asked to have the suggestion modified to developing two proposals, one for the service activities, and another for the garage sale concept. Mike Harkavy added that raising funds is not necessary; we could hook up with a service organization. Nejla passed a sign-up sheet.

**Town Report from Supervisor, Fred Costello:** He said the Board’s been very active. Progress through Conservation Advisory Commission to be a Climate Smart Town. Good work through a Consolidated Funding Application, applying to NYS as an economic development zone. There is work applying for a grant on behalf of Ice Rink to replace the roof for little or no bond issuance. He said the Town Hall needs to be more handicapped accessible and there is a grant bieing applied for to accomplish that. Bristol Beach: It is rich with opportunity. They will employ a carve-cut (via Palisades Park) to build a driveway and develop trails from there. Subsequent funding will be for signage, trail surfaces, etc. to include a possible event space created from an old industrial building. They are also trying to apply for money to do an energy audit to improve water and sewer plants with high tech equipment. They have rented land to East Light to develop a solar farm over Saugerties landfill. Also, they are engaged in a zoning change for the King’s Highway corridor to utilize special use permits for purposes other than light industrial.

**Announcments:** There are fundraisers for Juan Figueroa on July 26th at Christine Dinsmore’s and another on July29th at Barry Benape’s home from 4 to 6pm. Katie Holt had fliers to hand out for the fundraisers. Reimbursement of $50 for printing was asked, seconded by Christine Dinsmore and unanimously approved.

Juan Figueroa will be at Hudson Valley Dessert Company on August 3rd, First Friday.

Status of Complaint against Mary Anne Wrolsen: The Chair reported that a committee has been appointed to hear her case, but he is uncertain what will happen since she did not circulate petitions. There seemed to be some sentiment for dropping the complaint, in light of the fact that, given this, she cannot be on the Committee anyway.

**Publicity Committee:** (Christine Dinsmore) The SDC has a new Twitter account. She reported that Liz Bailey is excited about updating our website and provide links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Reorganization of Saugerties Democratic Committee**: A transition occurs in every other September.It is time to elect officers to the committee. Luz Mooney will step down as First Vice-Chair. The Chair encouraged committee members to apply for positions they would like to hold.

**Viet Nam Wall in Saugerties:** Bill Barr mentioned the success of the display in Saugerties. Fred Costello followed up, noting that 10,800 visitors were counted and congratulating all who were instrumental in making it happen. He said there is talk of developing some monument memorializing the event. The Chair called for a minute of silence on behalf of soldiers who were sacrificed in the war and expressed hope that someday, there would be no more of them.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by Mike Harkavy, seconded by Chris Allen and unanimously passed.

Recorded by Bill Barr, Secretary