**Saugerties Democratic Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**6 April 2021**

**Roll Call**

Regular Members: Aaron Levine, Sue Bfeeen, Brigid Walsh, Christine Dinsmore, Rick Cousin, Kathy Gordon, Kathleen Gray, Joe Maloney, John Schoonmaker, Kevin Freeman, Katherine Smith, Lanny Walter, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Matthew Maloney, Margo McGilvrey, Mike Harkavy, Mike Cimorelli, Nicole Roskps. Pam Ross, Skip Arthur, Bill Barr

Associate Members: Andrew Zink, Finley Schaef, Deena Turner, Diedre Miller, Justine Tomkiell, Michelle Grossbohlin, Lauren Ruberg, Ken Kleinberg

**Introduction:** The Chair called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Christine Dinsmore.

**Meeting expectations and ground rules:** Christine used an orchestra metaphor making the point that each of us has a part to play to make a final product. Proposed ground rules: Speakers limited to two minutes. Follow the four gateways of speech, true, timely, kind and beneficial. Respect and honor others, use I statements. Raise mechanical hand to speak.

Goal is to establish working agreement to have mutually beneficial meetings.

Acknowledged residual bitterness from Primary and have to deal with it at some time.

**Goal of Meeting**--Establish a group commitment on a Working Agreement for Committee meetings

**Review of Subcommittee Meeting**: Pam reviews preliminary meeting of 13-member subcommittee. Named 13 members. Asked why joined Committee and what wanted to come out of meeting. She summarized them (see email).

Open floor to discussion (Why on the committee? Outcome for this meeting) Diedre doesn’t trust people. Lauren feels underappreciated. Joe, always voted Dem, but was an Independence Party member. Agrees with Dem values. Says we forget about the people. Criticize Executive Committee for not being on top of things. Pushing his concept for the video. Kevin said he prefers Community Agreement to Code of Conduct.

Margo **reviews working agreement from union** (sent prior to April 6 meeting): She said the union agreement is called a Community Agreement. She has talked to all members and said that it seems we all share goal of making this community and country a better place. Thanked all for sharing their thoughts. Highlighted one page Community Agreements sent out. Spoke about appreciating all the skills and abilities that members have. Try to assume best intentions. Speak from own experience and use “I” statements.

Open floor to discussion (reactions to the working agreement)

**Committee input:** One sentence of what you’d like incorporated into the

working agreement. Skip thought it is great. A lot of it is recognizing procedural rules. Kat agreed. Maybe we need to state that we agree to follow RRoO.

**Open floor to discussion (reactions to the working agreement)**

**Committee input**: One sentence of what you’d like incorporated into the

working agreement. Matt Maloney said what was missing was a means of resolving disagreements. Need a reconciliation component to agreement. Louise said (need to review it). Nejla said there should be a means to apply it to written communication. Not appreciated how much work is done on behalf of the Committee. Kathleen went back to Louise’s comment about impact and intent, and said she may not have appreciated the impact some have experienced. Margo praised the Executive Committee for all its work. Mike Harkavy said there is a trust issue within the Committee and that it may be addressed by setting up a safe structure at meetings. Joe Maloney said we need to go into emails, e.g., who decides what goes out, to whom, began to rehash campaign issues. Also conversation about mailers. Lauren Ruberg complained about lack of support for her campaign, not having any instruction in how to run. So did Diedre; felt there is preferential treatment for people who have been on the Committee for some time. Sue Breen pointed out the need to have a group of objective people to look at key issues and help us work through them. Would like to see agendas with timing, and timing of discussions. Issues are recurring and let’s figure out how to resolve them.

Mike H., agree with what Sue said. Re candidates, candidates come from the committee because the want to contribute in politics and then they decide to run. No favoritism, but they just want to work. There’s a balance of people from outside and inside. Lanny said he didn’t want to sound defensive. Part of our problem is the Pandemic, not being able to meet in person, fund raise, have dinners. It doesn’t help build trust. Assures all that we are a humane and caring group of people. A bit concerned by a healing session exacerbating wounds. Nicole Roskos said it’s important to prevent a few people from dominating the conversation. John S. said he didn’t have much to add to WG, but agrees with a healing meeting. Said he’s developing a restorative justice circle and thinks we should too.

**Brief review of next steps**: (synthesize discussion, submit to 13-member

subcommittee, refine, prepare for next meeting)

Next steps are for Margo and Pam to review notes and look at recording and develop a synthesis to send to the subcommittee to develop a synthesis.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Margo and seconded by Lanny.