**Saugerties Democratic Committee**

**22 June 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call:**

Voting Members: Aaron Levine, Barbara Boyce, Bob Gelbach, Susan Breen, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammler, Christine Dinsmore, Rick Cousin, Kathy Gordon, Hélène Lesterlin, Gilda Riccardi, Kathleen Gray, Josef Hinchey, Kevin Freeman, Katherine Smith, Lanny Walter, Liz Buono, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Matthew Maloney, Margo McGilvrey, Mike Harkavy, Mike Cimorelli, Nancy Schaef, Nicole Roskos, Pam Ross, Skip Arthur, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell (Assoc.)

Associate Members: Ken Kleinberg, Finley Schaef

Guest: Paul Andreassen

**Establishment of Quorum:** The Secretary called roll and announced that a quorum was present.

**Approve Minutes of May 25, 2021 Meeting:** The Chair accepted the Secretary’s motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Christine Dinsmore. Approved without objection.

**Treasurer’s Report:** In Tim Scott’s absence, the Secretary made his report to the committee as detailed below and moved that it be accepted; seconded by Nejla Liias and passed without objection. The Chair noted that he had additional ActBlue donations to pass to the Treasurer. Kathy Gordon noted that to date, no money has been spent for campaigns.

Monthly Beginning Balance: $1,898.82

Collected Donations:ActBlue - 91.21

Expenses: 0

Reimbursements: 0

*New* Total Balance: **$**1,990.03

**Nominations and Election of SDC Secretary and Treasurer:** The Chair noted that Tim had been notified that he is not allowed to be a committee officer and remain on the zoning board and has therefore chosen to resign.

Bill Barr was nominated for Treasurer by Skip Arthur; nomination seconded by Margo McGilvrey. Motion passed without objection.

Louise Bloomfield was nominated for Secretary by Kathy Gordon; nomination was seconded by Sue Breen. Passed without objection.

**ED 1 Associate Member Considerations and Vote:** Gilda Riccardi nominated Paul Andreassen; seconded by Katherine Smith. There were questions regarding Mr. Andreassen’s membership in the Independence Party and his resignation from the Town Board which he answered. The vote was then sent out to voting members. Results were seven votes for, 21 votes against; membership denied.

**July 4th Parade:** Mike Harkavy has been contacted by the parade organizers and asked if we wished to participate. The Chair asked if there was a motion to participate. Justine Tomkiell moved that the Committee participate and volunteered to organize it; seconded by Nejla Liias. Brigid Walsh said she would help organize it with Justine. Motion passed.

**Community Happenings:**

School District Update: Barbara Boyce reported that the school is having a traditional graduation at 6:30 on the school football field. There are currently no Covid cases. Parents may report their student’s vaccination but there is no requirement to do so. Justine Tomkiell said she met with the school policy committee who is working on making the school more equitable for all students.

Mental Health Task Force: Bob Gelbach said the task force is coming up with recommendations of how to spend grant money to improve mental health in the County. Bob said if any have concerns they think need to be addressed, to contact him.

**Town Issues:**

Housing Committee: Lanny said Patterns for Progress has done an extensive analysis of needs and is trying to get an idea what the town and village needs are to improve housing. He said it’s pretty clear from the study that there are problems. People are homeless and poorly housed. So far they have had about 6 meetings. Marjorie Leopold has been a convenor. They will meet with the Town Supervisor and other municipal people in about a week.

**County Issues:**

Family Court Judge Convention: Has been postponed to July 13 and will still be done virtually. Will vote on who will be the Family Court candidate. Delayed because Judge Mizel’s resignation had not been processed. Candidates are Liz Corrado and Sarah Rakov.

Improving Updates: Tabled until next meeting. Would like to identify individuals to monitor other bodies such as the County Legislature, Town and Village Boards.

**Standing Subcommittee Updates:**

Fundraising: Skip Arthur said the committee met and decided to have a meal catered by the Stone Pony at the Cantine Pavilion. If there are enough people, he may cook on site. Steve Massardo will do sound and arrange for several performers. BBQ chicken/veggie burger with wine and beer cost built into ticket. Committee cleans up. 9 September is the target date to avoid bad weather. HVDC will provide dessert and give us contacts for cutlery and plates.

**In-Person July Meeting**: Senior Center is reserved for our July meeting. Nejla Liias said we will require vaccinations, but will have a separate place for non-vaccinated and are looking into continuing to have a zoom option. There were concerns over being vaccinated, knowing how many will be vaccinated in advance, and whether we should meet outdoors. The Chair said we could investigate doing it at the pavilion. Louise will send out a query to members asking if they are vaccinated so a count can be made in advance. Brigid Walsh pointed out that music venues have figured out how to do this. It was agreed to send information about the Excelsior pass to the membership.

**Announcements**:

Hélène Lesterlin shared information on upcoming Good Work Institute workshops that may be of benefit to the Committee: health care for trans people, three workshops on shared leadership and democracy in the workplace. She felt we may use it to improve ways of working together. Just Transition transfer workshop (how to move to sustainable, non-racist community). The Chair asked for committee members to be emailed this information.

Jack Rose Memorial: Mike Harkavy recommended visits to it, saying it was a wonderful, meditative site.

Office Hours: Nejla Liias pointed out that Executive Committee members are holding Zoom Office Hours on the second Monday of every month, noting that so far, no one has shown up. It may be canceled if this continues.

Matthew Maloney: Said he was out on Pine Ridge Reservation for a prayer ceremony, where he has been going for the last seven years. He said he wants to bring some of the spirit of it to the Committee. He spoke to the grave injustice dealt Native Americans in the settling of this country and more that continues to this day. He asked if there is a way for us to begin the healing process with Native Nations? There was general agreement from the Committee that we should investigate measures we could take.

Adjournment: Rick Cousin moved to adjourn; seconded by Louise Bloomfield and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Barr, Outgoing Secretary