



Saugerties Democratic Committee September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Roll Call

The Secretary called roll and determined that a quorum was present:

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Kathryn Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting), Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Deena Turner, Justine Tomkiell (Acting), Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejlá Lias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Nancy Schaef, Finley Schaef (Acting), Anna Markowitz, Joe Maloney, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, H  l  ne Lesterlin, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Associate Members: Anna Markowitz

Gary Hustwit

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary moved to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2021 meeting, seconded by Justine Tomkiell. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report

The Chair accepted the Treasurer's motion to approve the report below for September 28, 2021, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. The motion passed without objection.

Beginning Balance

\$2,876.49
24-Aug-21

Income

ActBlue Fundraiser

\$2,419.85

ActBlue Donations

\$115.21

Ticket Sales Fundraiser

\$4,625.00

Tips Fundraiser

\$105.00

Fundraiser Door Sales

\$90.00

Pavilion Deposit Refund

\$200.00

Pat Ryan Donation

\$1,000.00

Total

\$8,555.06

Expenses

Fundraiser Expenses

(\$3,074.42)

New Balance

\$8,357.13
28-Sep-21

The Committee thanked the Fundraising Committee for all the hard work that resulted in this success, and thanked Bob McGilvrey for generously donating his bartender tips.

Elections and Campaign Considerations

Absentee Voter Outreach: We receive weekly absentee voter updates from the Board of Elections. Kathy and Sue have mailed out 200 sets of candidate literature to absentee voters, timed to hit mailboxes just before their absentee ballots arrive. Most of these are permanent absentee voters. Later we will be able to do telephone outreach to absentee voters who haven't returned their ballots.

Candidate Campaigns:

Town Board: Kevin Freeman reported that Citizen Action has endorsed him, Kayleigh Zaloga and Aaron Levine. Candidates appealed for volunteer drivers and canvassers, on evenings as well as weekends. Town Board candidates are sending a mailing direct from a mail house, not taking volunteer resources. Michelle Hinchey has told the Town Board candidates that she has no firm procedure for endorsements as yet. Nejla will try to follow up with Michelle. A mid- or late October fundraiser for the Town Board candidates and Aaron Levine is being planned. Nejla asked members to field more volunteers for all campaigns. Anna is maintaining canvassing volunteer schedules for candidates. The Chair noted that the PBA has endorsed the opponents for Town Board; despite Fred Costello's efforts, Kayleigh and Kevin were not even interviewed before this endorsement.

LD1: Aaron also needs canvassing/driving volunteers; he has lawn signs available.

LD2: Joe reported that Mike Hamm, Operating Engineers union head phoned to signal their endorsement.

Justine asked how to engage more Black people as volunteers and explained her fear of knocking on doors and phone banking, having met with rejection. Pam Ross has had some success and mostly positive responses while feeling similar fears. Justine offered to video candidate appearances for social media.

SDC Campaign Spending: Kathy Gordon moved to offer the following resolution:

"This meeting authorizes the expenditure of up to \$6,250 on campaigns for Town Board and County Legislature, distributed in the following way: \$1,000 each transferred to the campaigns of Kevin Freeman and Kayleigh Zaloga; \$750 transferred to the account of Aaron Levine; up to \$500 for postage and other expenses to send mailings to absentee voters; up to \$2,000 for a Saugerties Democratic Committee mailing to roughly 2000 Democratic voters. Furthermore, this meeting authorizes the Executive Committee to spend [up to] an additional \$1000 [on campaigning] if in their judgment the need arises prior to the next meeting of the SDC." The motion was seconded by Nejla Liias.

The Chair noted that the amounts proposed in the resolution for candidates' campaigns are exactly what the candidates applied for. Joe clarified that his campaign is self-funded. Kathy noted that the SDC mailing is for mobilization: All candidates will be listed, and the aim is to get Dems who don't always vote in off-year elections to the polls. Christine stressed that candidates requesting money as needed from the committee is absolutely appropriate, and

voiced her support for the resolution. The resolution passed with one abstention and no opposed votes.

Second Homeowners Outreach: Louise outlined the existing Second Homeowners outreach program.

Ballot propositions Christine outlined the six ballot propositions, of which five are statewide and one is for Ulster County. Democrats generally support all six of them. The intent of Proposition 1 is to counter past GOP gerrymandering in redistricting and to count prisoners as residents of the towns they are from rather than in the prison location. The Clean Air and Water proposition is to make sure that these environmental protections become part of the NYS Constitution. The Ulster County proposition will prevent payroll funds from being diverted to cover other County expenditures. Joe had been instrumental in passing this in 2019 but it was then vetoed.

Nejla has a flyer from the town of Olive with useful information for people knocking doors or phonebanking. There is also information about all the propositions on the BoE website, and a streamlined summary of them all at <https://www.ulstervotes.com/>. The Chair noted that some of the propositions such as for same-day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting could help get voters to the polls.

Mike Harkavy moved to offer the following Resolution: “The Saugerties Democratic Committee supports all of the six ballot propositions on the reverse side of the ballot for the November 2, 2021 election.” The motion was seconded by Kevin Freeman. The Resolution passed without objection.

Gathering and Rally for Early Voting October 23 The Chair raised the suggestion to hold a rally to encourage early voting on the day it begins, Saturday, October 23. The SDC has permission, for a fee of \$25, to gather at the ball field near the Senior Center (but more than 100 feet from it), where early voting will take place. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of such an event. There will be a planning committee to discuss the detail further and to announce the event if a decision is made to recommend it.

Community Issues—Town

Proposed Winston Farm development: Catskill Mountainkeeper has reached out to Nejla about their concerns. The Public Vision Document on which this is based dates back to 2009 and a lot has changed since. The SDC should be receptive and willing to share views on it. Bill noted the size of the property and that it could add a large number of dwellings; the Climate Emergency resolution the Town passed should govern any development decisions. Nancy suggested that SDC members should join the ZBA and Planning Board. Gilda noted that the developers might have included affordable housing as a tax break. Mike H. suggests that as individuals we have oversight, but that as a committee we should take no position. The Chair noted that Snyder’s Farm is also part of the property.

Housing Issues: Joe reported on a forum about Airbnb and other similar property uses.

The Chair reported that the County has offered to make a presentation based on the Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress study, promoting housing development that meets the need of communities for affordable housing.

Town Committees: The Chair noted that each January the Town publishes invitations to apply for membership on its various committees (ZBA, Planning Board, Citizen's Advisory Committee, etc.); this can also be done by informing Supervisor Fred Costello of one's interest.

State and Federal Issues

Redistricting: Aaron noted the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission release of two draft maps, encouraging members to make their voices heard. Both sets propose splitting Saugerties between two Senate and two Assembly districts. The Mid-Hudson Region public hearing on these draft maps is on Monday, November 8 at 3 p.m. at Pace University in Westchester County. We can submit testimony or testify in person.

NY 19: Nejlja appealed for donations to Delgado's reelection campaign. The Chair noted deceptive advertising against Delgado already airing.

Other Business

R.Y.A.N. House: The Chair offered to invite representatives to a future Committee meeting to outline plans and engage in discussion.

Justine moved to adjourn, seconded by Pam Ross; without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary
