



Saugerties Democratic Committee October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Kathryn Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting), Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell (Acting), Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Michael Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Susan Breen, Tim Scott, Nicole Roskos, Anna Markowitz (Acting), Joseph Maloney, Matthew Maloney, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Katherine Smith, Josef Hinchey, Lauren Ruberg (Acting), Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Associate Member: Andrew Zink

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary moved to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 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.

	Actual		Pending
Beginning Balance		\$8,357.13	
28-Sep-21			
Income			
ActBlue Donations	\$129.63		
Total Income		\$129.63	
Expenses			
Ck 245 Postage	(\$183.36)	Postage	(\$666.48)
Ck 246 Kevin Freeman Cmpgn	(\$1,000.00)	Flyers (est)	(\$1,642.74)
Ck 247 Kay Z Cmpgn	(\$1,000.00)		
Ck 248 Aaron Levine Cmpgn	(\$750.00)		
Total Expenses		(\$2,933.36)	(\$2,309.22)
New Balance		\$5,553.40	\$3,244.18
26-Oct-21			

Anna Markowitz outlined a planned GOTV event, an October 30 rally with Governor Hochul at Cantine Pavilion. Bill Barr moved to authorize additional expenditures of up to \$250 to cover pavilion and sound system rental costs. The motion was seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The

motion passed without objection. Kathy Gordon moved to authorize Anna and Nejla Liias to spend up to an additional \$450 on additional event costs such as refreshments, seconded by Justine Tomkiell. The motion passed without objection.

Filling Vacancy in ED4

Christine Dinsmore nominated ED4 Associate Member Justine Tomkiell to full voting membership, seconded by Kevin Freeman. Justine was elected by 21 votes in favor to none opposed.

Election and Campaigns

Kathy Gordon presented the Committee's and the candidates' campaign efforts, highlighting the hard work of all the candidates and their strong digital presence, including e-newsletters and digital ads. She noted that the County Committee has provided both great support for Aaron Levine's campaign to flip the Leg. District 1 seat and the postcards we used as reminders to our most solid voters. Nejla and Kathy asked SDC members to volunteer to canvass and/or call voters in the final days of the campaign. The SDC mailing and social media include information on the 6 ballot propositions.

Community Issues

1. R.Y.A.N. House's presentation scheduled for this meeting will take place at the November meeting.
2. Proposed closure of Grant Morse School: Lauren Ruberg reported that the stated reason is financial. The elementary schools in the Saugerties CSD would be restructured in one of two proposed ways: one school each for grades K-2, 3-4, and 5-6; or two K-5 schools and one 6th-grade school. The stated reason for selection of Morse for closure is classroom size. The Superintendent would like a decision in December 2021. Aaron noted the inconsistency between the closure plan and the 2020 capital improvement project, which included renovations to Morse School. Justine noted that the capital improvement project is not yet approved by the state authority, and that any December restructure vote would precede this approval decision. Anna suggested the SDC put out a statement urging the CSD to provide more information and hold off the closure for one year. Lauren noted that several cost items in the school budget have come in significantly under projection, and that financial presentations at board meetings have had several unexplained inconsistencies.
3. Nejla outlined the concerns around the proposed development of Winston Farm.

4. Christine noted Juan Figueroa's Town Hall on the ORACLE program.
5. Kayleigh Zaloga reported that the Town Board and police chief held a panel about the cannabis legalization program. The Town Board does not favor opting out but will use zoning regulations to limit the number and location of dispensaries. The deadline for decision to participate is December 31, though if enough citizens petitioned to opt out after that, the Town Board would need to reconsider.
6. State Redistricting: The Chair noted the Nov. 6 signup deadline to testify at the Nov. 8 public hearing of the NY State Independent Redistricting Commission. Kathy, Nejla, Louise, and Bill will reach out to Delgado's, Hinchey's and Kevin Cahill's offices for any input and coordinate attendance and statements as needed.
7. Matthew Maloney noted the continuing struggle of the Apache Nation to prevent the transfer of their sacred site Oak Flat to Rio Tinto for mining purposes. He proposed individual and/or committee letters of support.
8. Nejla reported on the First Lady's Luncheon in Washington, DC.
9. Nicole Roskos and Skip Arthur reported that the Saugerties Climate Committee is urging people not already enrolled to sign up for Community Solar's Solarize Ulster program. Ten new enrollments from Saugerties would make the town eligible for a \$5000 grant to work on climate initiatives.

Kathy Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Harkavy. The motion passed without objection, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary