



## Saugerties Democratic Committee November 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

### Roll Call

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

*Voting Members:* Liz Buono, Kathy Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting), Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Deena Turner, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Andrew Zink (Acting), Mike Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Nancy Schaefer, Nicole Roskos, Joe Maloney, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Katherine Smith, H el ene Lesterlin, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine  
*Associate Member:* Anna Markowitz

*Guest:* Carole Kelder, R.Y.A.N. House

### Approval of Minutes

The Secretary moved to approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2021 meeting, seconded by Bill Barr. The motion passed without objection.

### Treasurer's Report

The Chair accepted the Treasurer's motion to approve the report below for November 23, 2021, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. The motion passed without objection.

		Actual		Pending	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			\$8,357.13		
28-Sep-21					
<b>Income</b>					
ActBlue Donations		\$129.63			
<b>Total Income</b>			\$129.63		
<b>Expenses</b>					
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)			
<b>Total Expenses</b>			(\$2,933.36)		(\$2,309.22)
<b>New Balance</b>			\$5,553.40		\$3,244.18
26-Oct-21					

### **R.Y.A.N. House**

The Chair introduced Carole Kelder to speak about R.Y.A.N. House. R.Y.A.N. (Raising Your Awareness about Narcotics), a nonprofit organization, has purchased the former Knights of Columbus Building. They are renovating and converting it to a sober, supportive housing community for people in recovery from substance addiction who are transitioning back into the community. It will be able to house 8-10 male tenants having or seeking employment (paying minimal rent), and will be staffed 24/7. The house is currently providing meeting space for support groups, and will offer additional programs and host community gatherings. Financing is through private donations, sponsorships and contributions from attendees at the meetings they host. The December Town Planning Board meeting will take public comments on R.Y.A.N. House. R.Y.A.N.'s email address for questions or comments is [ryansrun5k@outlook.com](mailto:ryansrun5k@outlook.com)

### **Election and Campaign Review**

Kathy Gordon reviewed the available (unofficial) election results and compared them to previous cycles. Though Democratic turnout was lighter than hoped, the results demonstrate that canvassing is effective in turning out unaffiliated voters and—even more so—the Democratic vote. Several committee members requested more information about the reasons our Town Board candidates were unable to also secure the Working Families Party ballot line after winning the Democratic primary (the WFP not having held a primary). The Executive Committee was asked to investigate and report back to the full committee at the next meeting.

**Reflections and Looking Forward:** Nejla Liias and Kathy are preparing a strategy document for the year 2022. A draft will be presented at the next full Committee meeting—which will be an addition to our regular schedule, on Tuesday, December 14, at 7:00 pm.

### **Village Issues**

Andrew Zink reported that the Town Planning Board's next meeting would be open for public input on R.Y.A.N. House, and that the Tree Commission is working on a new green space on Montross Street, to open next year.

### **Town Issues**

***Redistricting:*** The Chair and participating members outlined the redistricting process and the testimony submitted from Saugerties. Though the [Independent Redistricting Commission's](#) scheduled in-person hearings for public input have ended, there may be opportunities to submit additional information.

***Library:*** Nina Schmidbaur reported she has joined the Library Board. They are implementing a diversity acknowledgment policy across the entire collection.

*Ad hoc committees:* The Chair invited members—and any other interested Saugerties Democrats—to form ad hoc subcommittees around these ongoing town issues:

- Winston Farm development
- NYCDEP Discharge into the lower Esopus
- Possible elementary school closure
- Cannabis dispensaries in Saugerties. A (second) [Town Hall Meeting](#) on cannabis will take place at the Saugerties Senior Center on Monday, Dec. 13.

Housing and police reform could also be subjects for ad hoc committees. Anyone interested in joining an ad hoc subcommittee is invited to email the Secretary at [lbloomfieldsdc@gmail.com](mailto:lbloomfieldsdc@gmail.com)

*Future Meetings:* At the additional meeting on December 14, the Executive Committee will present an action plan to account for the likely early (February 2022) start to the campaign calendar. Following are the meeting dates in 2022: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22—on 4th Tuesday of the month, at 7 pm.

The Committee thanked all of our candidates and congratulated the winning candidates.

Bill Barr moved to adjourn seconded by Louise. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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