



Saugerties Democratic Committee
August 30, 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Zoom only, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Ken Kleinberg, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejla Lias, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Tim Scott, Nancy Schaefer, Nicole Roskos, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammmer, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Sakinah Irizarry, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Hélène Lesterlin, Anna Markowitz, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Guests: County Comptroller March Gallagher, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, Town Supervisor Fred Costello, Jen Metzger, Richard Azoff, Sheila Azoff, Marjorie Leopold, Leslie Surprenant

Approval of Minutes

Christine Dinsmore moved to accept an amendment to the draft Minutes (Endorsement Discussion section) proposed by Lanny Walter. The motion was seconded by Justine Tomkiell and passed unanimously. Christine then moved to pass the Minutes as amended, seconded by Justine; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Lanny Walter moved to accept the Treasurer's Report presented by Bill Bar. The motion was seconded by Liz Buono and passed unanimously.

SDC TREASURER REPORT AUGUST 2022

	Actual	Pending
Beginning Balance		
26-Jul-22	\$2,646.26	\$2,646.26
Income		
ActBlue Donations (Recurring)	\$153.42	
ActBlue Donations (Fund Raiser)	\$797.41	
Total Income	\$950.83	
Expenses		
Check # 266 N. Lias (Hinchey)	(\$500.00)	
Total Expenses	(\$500.00)	
		Fundraiser Budget Remaining (\$1,500.00)
New Balance		
30-Aug-22	\$3,097.09	\$1,597.09

Chair Nejla Liias welcomed guests and highlighted the upcoming SDC fundraiser and the Ulster County Democratic Committee Convention, emphasizing the importance of the organizing meeting and County Executive candidate election on September 17.

County Executive Candidates

Pat Ryan's departure for U.S. Congress (as of September 13) necessitates a special election to replace him as Ulster County Executive. Nejla introduced the three Democratic candidates for nomination as County Executive. Jen Metzger, Marc Rider and March Gallagher made consecutive 10-minute appearances. Each described their background and qualifications and then took questions. The County Committee Convention to elect the Democratic nominee for County Executive will take place in person at Kingston City Hall on September 17, immediately following the Ulster County Democratic Committee organizing meeting at 4:30 pm. Nejla confirmed that Committee members will have an online attendance and voting option at the Convention. The reason for holding it on that date is to allow enough time to hold the special election for County Executive on November 8 with the midterm elections, rather than later on a separate date.

Get to Know Me

Tim Scott and Kathy Gordon spoke about their backgrounds as illustrated by photos.

August 23 Special Election

Nejla highlighted the national importance of Pat Ryan's win and acknowledged the contributions of SDC members and our town volunteers. Kevin Freeman and Christine Dinsmore noted that Democrats in neighboring Dutchess and Columbia counties also outperformed—notably the Columbia Cty Democratic women. Lanny said that a lot of voters really appreciated his canvassing—there is an appetite for information. Kathy noted that enrolled Democrats make up 37% of Saugerties voters—but made up 48% of the ones who voted in the Special election. The (provisional) results in Saugerties were 56% for Ryan and 44% for Molinaro. NOPs did not vote for Ryan in large numbers. We will need to start canvassing early to ID NOPs who will vote Dem in November, and then get them to the polls. Aaron suggested younger NOP voters might be likely Dem voters in the fall. Lanny suggested that the beginning of early voting should be our deadline for the bulk of our canvassing efforts. Each member is encouraged to find other people to share in the canvassing effort.

September 8 SDC Fundraiser

ActBlue contributions are level with last year's. Physical ticket sales are needed. Volunteer servers and ticket takers are especially sought. A successful fundraiser will allow us to rent a storefront campaign office for the general election season.

November Election

No ideal office space option has materialized; Lanny and Kevin are pursuing leads. Kathy made a motion for the Committee to authorize the Executive Committee to spend up to \$2000 on office space before the next full Committee meeting, assuming sufficient funds are in the coffer at that time. The motion was seconded by Mike Harkavy. Bill noted that we need to reserve some funds to donate to candidates' campaigns. The Executive Committee is encouraged to seek contributions to an office storefront from candidate campaigns that can benefit from and afford to support it—starting with the Governor and

Lieutenant Governor. Lanny proposed an amendment to the motion to raise the cap to \$2500, accepted by Kathy. Margo proposed that the amended motion be called, seconded by Bob Gelbach. The motion passed.

Campaign strategy: The campaign committee is making every effort to coordinate with the candidate campaigns. Each committee member needs to think about what their role will be. Prospective canvassers should email Liz Buono or Mike.

Announcements

Nancy Schaefer thanked the whole committee and the Ulster County Legislature for their support following the death of her brother Harold Krakenberg, who had been deeply involved in the community over many years. County Legislature Chair Tracey Bartels and Saugerties Legislator Aaron Levine adjourned the July 19 legislature session in Harold Krakenberg's memory.

Tim Scott announced the Library budget vote and Board election on Sept. 1., 10am-8pm.

Nejla announced a Town Board public hearing on Winston Farm's scoping document on September 21. The scoping document is now available on the Winston Farm website, in Documents. Several groups including the town CAC are doing detailed reviews of the document.

There will be a potluck SDC appreciation brunch in honor of Lanny Walter on Sept. 24 from 11am to 1pm in the Senior Center. Members are encouraged to sign up to prepare dishes. Justine moved to spend a total of \$175 on brunch expenses and a plaque for Lanny, seconded by Kathy Gordon. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Supervisor Fred Costello noted that the company that was awarded the Community Choice Aggregation, Columbia Utilities, is in bankruptcy and can't fulfill its obligations for the full three years of the contract. Central Hudson is once again the town's electricity provider. Regarding the Winston Farm scoping document, he noted that anything a speaker wants to see added to the document should also be submitted to the Town Board in written form.

Lanny noted that the Villages of Ellenville and Saugerties are not reimbursed by the County for delinquent taxes owed if a property owner defaults, unlike other communities in the County. The county Legislature will hold a hearing about this on Sept. 20; Lanny encourages Saugerties residents to attend.

Lanny also noted that in a recent public comment session at the end of a Legislature meeting there was a group reading of a document alleging irregularities in county's 2020 election, done by several women associated with "Ulster County NY Citizens for Election Integrity in cooperation with NY Citizens."

There being no further business, Mike Harkavy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Justine Tomkiell. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary