



## Saugerties Democratic Committee

### October 25, 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Senior Center and Zoom, 7:00pm

#### **Roll Call**

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

*Voting Members:* Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Andrew Zink, Ken Kleinberg, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell, Skip Arthur, Christine Dinsmore, Nejla Liias, Mike Harkavy, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Nancy Schaef, Nicole Roskos, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammler, Joe Maloney, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Sakinah Irizarry, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, Anna Markowitz, Hélène Lesterlin, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

*Guests:* Town Supervisor Fred Costello, Larry Alexander, Chris Allen, Sina Clark, Jerry Cohen, Melissa Halpert, Charles Potter, Linda Siegel

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Justine Tomkiell moved to approve the draft Minutes of the August 30 meeting, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill Barr presented the Treasurer's Report and moved for its approval, seconded by Justine Tomkiell.

#### **SDC TREASURER REPORT OCTOBER 2022**

	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Pending</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			
27-Sep-22	\$8,121.69		
<b>Income</b>			
ActBlue Donations (Recurring)	\$244.88	Pavilion Refund	\$250.00
Cash, Checks	\$305.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$549.88</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>			
Check # 274 (July Forum)	(\$109.98)	Check#280 (Campaign)	(514.57)
Check # 275 (Fundraiser)	(\$100.29)	Check#281 (Campaign)	(125.00)
Check #276 (Josh Riley)	(\$500.00)	Check#282 (Campaign Ofc)	(208.47)
Check# 277 (Jen Metzger)	(\$500.00)	Check# 283 (Campaign)	(104.19)
Check#278 Michelle Hinchey)	(\$500.00)	Check#285 (Campaign)	(145.80)
Check# 279 (Sarahanna Shrestha)	(\$500.00)		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$2,210.27)</b>		
<b>New Balance</b>			
25-Oct-22	\$6,461.30		\$5,613.27

Bill noted the recurring monthly SDC Zoom account charge for \$30 that has been billed to his personal credit card (not reflected in the report) for a total of \$700. Bill moved for reimbursement for half the amount charged. Margo McGilvrey amended the motion to provide for full reimbursement to Bill, seconded by Mike Harkavy. The motion passed.

Bill noted the existing \$2,500 the SDC set aside to cover office rent, which has since been covered by the State Democratic Committee. This brings the total current balance to \$4,913.27. Justine Tomkiell moved for approval of the amended Treasurer's report, seconded by Mike Harkavy. The motion passed.

Bill thanked the SDC for the compassion and concern for Pam Ross during her illness.

### **Guests Welcome**

Sina Clark, Charles Potter and Melissa Halpert introduced themselves.

### **Campaign Expense Update**

Speaking for the executive committee, Bill Barr raised the state environmental bond ballot proposition-- Proposition 1--which has not been publicized by the state committee. Bill moved to spend up to \$500 for print literature supporting Prop. 1 for the SDC canvass packets, and taking out a half-page ad in *Hudson Valley One*. Kathy noted that we have already printed 1000 Prop. 1 fliers for canvass packets.

Bill also moved for donations to State Senate candidate Michelle Hinchey and County Executive Jen Metzger of \$500 each, along with \$100 apiece to each of the state Supreme Court judge candidates for a total of \$1300. The motion was seconded by Christine Dinsmore. Justine offered a friendly amendment to redeploy \$500 from printing Prop. 1 literature to a donation to Assembly candidate Sarahana Shrestha's campaign. The amendment was accepted.

Louise Bloomfield reported that a half-page ad (color) for Prop. 1 in *Hudson Valley One* would cost \$750; a full-page ad would cost \$1500. Christine noted the importance of a large eye-catching ad for the proposition since the state has left it so unpublicized and opposing signage is visible. Nancy Schaefer argued for a full-page ad for Prop. 1. Bill amended his motion to allow up to \$750 for the Prop. 1 ad, bringing the total appropriation to \$2550. Bill's amended motion allowing for a half-page ad was seconded by Justine. The motion passed with two opposed. Nejla will seek enough added funds from other town committees in the County to cover a full-page ad before the booking deadline.

### **Campaign Update and Discussion**

Kathy Gordon outlined SDC mail outreach efforts to new Democrats, and those for whom we have no phone or email addresses and who don't vote consistently. Saugerties volunteers also wrote 500 postcards supplied by the County Committee to Dems throughout the new CD19. Unreturned absentee ballots are being chased. Nicole Roskos is coordinating phonebanking efforts; Tim Scott is coordinating lawn signs. Louise noted that GOTV phonebanking is now under discussion with the candidates' campaigns; all candidate campaigns are coordinating GOTV efforts. This will boost numbers of targets. Mike reported on canvassing of prime Dems.

Kevin noted a new app, SwipeBlue, that identifies your contacts that might be in districts that matter. Users can then send a quick personal text. Bob Gelbach reported that the office is lively and staffers are

kept occupied. Volunteers have been dropping in to help. The office may become a hub for some of the other CD19 towns' GOTV efforts. A Riley campaign staffer will be there till 8:30 on weekday evenings.

Nejla reported that pollworkers are needed throughout the county including in Saugerties. Absentee ballot holders should be advised to return that ballot rather than count on being able to fill out an affidavit ballot.

### **Community Updates**

Winston Farm: Skip Arthur reported that Catskill Mountainkeeper had given a presentation at the last Town Board meeting. There had been some acrimony. The revised scoping document will be delivered by October 28 from the consultants, who are incorporating the public input they received to the draft version. Skip noted that the Town Planner had recently addressed the Conservation Advisory Committee, to very positive effect. In response to comments from Joe Maloney, Town Supervisor Fred Costello explained that the Village has no claim to any water on Winston Farm land as of the transfer of the property. Winston Farm cannot tap into any Village water; its water is limited to what the aquifer can provide. The developers anticipate sharing an unknown quantity of surplus water back to the Village (which owns the town's reservoir). Existing zoning would allow for developing the entire area. A change in zoning could ensure better stewardship of environment and wildlife, sustainable climate-friendly development, furtherance of the community's housing goals, and other community priorities.

### Town:

Fred reported that the dog park is progressing. The sponsor has approved a \$50,000 price tag for fencing around it. If all proceeds according to plan the dog park should open in spring 2023.

The town budget process is under way; two areas of cost increases are labor and health care. A town judge is about to be appointed, following the resignation of a former town judge.

### County:

Lanny Walter reported on the County Legislature redistricting issues. The Commission on Reapportionment's (CoR) map failed to follow the new state law that went into effect in October 2021. A lawsuit is being prepared to compel a new county legislature district map to accord with the law. Aaron noted that a resolution urging the CoR to follow the new law may be passed by the Legislature at its November meeting. The deadline to file the lawsuit will precede the Legislature meeting.

Aaron also reported that the County budget is now being negotiated. A public hearing on the budget will be held November 9 at 6:30pm at the Saugerties Library. The document is on the County website.

There being no other business, Justine Tomkiell moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Harkavy. The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary