



Saugerties Democratic Committee August 27, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Saugerties Senior Center, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Molly Mackaman, Kathy Gordon, Andrew Zink, Bill Barr, Teresa Giordano, Skip Arthur, Nejla Liias, Katie Cokinos, Louise Bloomfield, Ken Germano, Steve Charney, Ken Kleinberg, Nina Schmidbaur, Deena Turner, Beth Maloney, Margo McGilvrey, Joe Maloney, Andy Cowan, Aimee Richter, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Nonvoting Officer: 1st Vice Chair Kevin Freeman

Guests: Brittany Barnard, Bob Fallot, Kris Fallot, Patrick Hammer, Jacob Hunter, Mary McNamara, David Motola, June Nathanson, Gail Renardson, Laura Renardson, John Schoonmaker, Kazi Tejwar

Approval of Minutes

Andrew Zink moved to postpone approval of the Minutes of the July 23 Organizing and Monthly meetings to our September meeting, seconded by Nejla Liias. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

SDC TREASURER REPORT AUGUST 2024

	Actual	
Beginning Balance		
	23-Jul-24	\$3,771.83
Income		
ActBlue Donations SDC	782.75	
Meeting Donation	116.00	
Total Income		\$898.75
Expenses		
Zoom CC Payment	(15.99)	
Check 456 Freeman	(27.78)	
Check 457 Pavilion	(535.00)	
Yard Signs	(100.00)	
Total Expenses		(\$678.77)
New Balance		
	27-Aug-24	\$3,991.81

Gilda Riccardi moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Andy Cowan. The motion passed.

SDC Campaign Expenditure Authorization: Kathy Gordon moved to authorize expenses on any needed SDC campaign supplies, to a cap of \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Andrew Zink. The motion passed. Kathy also moved to authorize up to \$4,000 to cover office rental, seconded by Lanny Walter. The motion passed. The upcoming SDC fundraiser is projected to bring in enough revenue to cover these amounts comfortably.

Chair Nejla Liias welcomed the guests.

Campaign Welcome and Updates

Jacob Hunter and Kazi Tejwar introduced themselves, representing the NY State campaign for Pat Ryan and Michelle Hinchey. They are holding weekly phone banks for both candidates.

Brittany Barnard noted that Sarahana Shrestha's campaign is already canvassing in Saugerties, highlighting issues around Central Hudson, the Equal Rights Amendment and good cause eviction. Gilda Riccardi announced she will host a letter-stuffing campaign event for Sarahana's campaign in Saugerties.

The meeting broke at c. 7:30pm for an informal meet-and-greet for members, guests and the campaign representatives. The meeting resumed at c. 7:45pm.

Fall Election Discussion

Coordinated Campaign/Storefront: Kathy noted that Lanny, Brigid Walsh, Andy Cowan and others are searching for a campaign office. She announced the first SDC canvass kickoff, including lunch, a rally, and training, for Saturday, Sept. 7.

Kathy also gave updates on a new postcard campaign and the Scribes' activities.

SDC Fall Fundraiser (Sept. 19, 6pm, Cantine Pavilion): Skip Arthur gave updates on providers and pricing, stressing the importance of both Act Blue (online) and individual paper ticket sales. A 50% payment on the food ordered will be due a week in advance. Skip moved to authorize payments up to \$4,500 to cover needed expenses, seconded by Kathy Gordon. The motion passed.

Nejla announced a fundraiser she will host for Michelle Hinchey for Sunday, Sept. 8. Any Saugerties Democrat who can show they purchased a SDC Fundraiser ticket will be welcome to attend without further contribution.

Committee Business

Bylaws Committee: Lanny Walter reported that a proposed bylaws revision should be ready to present to the committee for a discussion at the September meeting.

Ulster County Dem Cttee Democracy Tent: Bill Barr reported on the successful appearance at the Caribbean Festival, with a full slate of SDC volunteers, a visit from Jen Metzger, and a kids' voting game (favorite superhero!).

Democratic National Convention: Kevin Freeman and Anna Markowitz reported on their experiences at the DNC in Chicago.

SDC Vacancies: Nejla noted Kevin Freeman's Statement of Candidacy for the vacancy in Election District 4. She announced Nina Schmidbauer's Aug. 26 request to switch districts from ED 11. The ED 4 vacancy must be filled by vote of the voting committee members. Discussion followed. Andrew Zink moved to hold an election to fill the vacancy at the September meeting, seconded by Aimee Richter. The motion passed.

Resolutions: Drafts of a proposed "Resolution Criticizing Joseph Maloney Behavior toward Sheriff" had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. After discussion, Aimee Richter moved that no vote be taken on the resolution; the motion was seconded by Andrew Zink. The motion passed.

Community Updates

Winston Farm: Katie Cokinos announced a free public forum on Winston Farm at the Orpheum for Sept. 12 at 7:00pm, titled "Balanced Growth, Saugerties." The format is a discussion with Town Supervisor Fred Costello and the Town Board's environmental consultant, Adriana Beltrani. Bill Barr noted that the Town Board, as lead agency, has submitted a Generic Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Mary McNamara suggested the Hudson Valley Alliance for Housing and Conservation as a possible resource.

Library Budget and Trustee Election: This will be on Sept. 5 at the Library, from 10am to 8 pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Library.

Ulster County Democratic Committee: Andy Cowan announced his candidacy for Vice Chair of Voter Outreach. The Organizing Meeting for the new term will take place Sept. 26 in person in Kingston.

County Legislature: Joe Maloney the resolution he co-sponsored to reduce the amount of occupancy tax paid by full-service resorts in the county.

There being no other business, Anna Markowitz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andy Cowan and the meeting adjourned at c. 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary