



Saugerties Democratic Committee May 28, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Cedar Grove Fire House, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Ken Kleinberg, Andrew Zink, Bill Barr, Skip Arthur, Nejla Liias, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Nancy Schaefer, Brigid Walsh, Barbara Boyce, Bob Gelbach, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Guests: Rep. Pat Ryan, Larry Alexander, Janet Asiain, Margarita Asiain, Eliza Bloom, Steve Charney, Teresa Giordano, Kathleen Gray, Jacob Hunter, Mike Ivino, Molly Mackaman, Mike McIsaac, Mary McNamara, Dan Torres

Approval of Minutes

Gilda Riccardi moved to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2024 meeting, seconded by Ken Kleinberg. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

	Actual		Pending
Beginning Balance			
23-Apr-24	\$3,303.51		
Income			
ActBlue Donations SDC	926.83	ActBlue	
Meeting Donation	184.00	Donation	91.23
Psnl Checks	175.00		
Total Income	\$1,285.83		
Expenses			
Zoom CC Payment	(15.99)		
Check 450 (PO Box)	(122.00)		
Check 451(K. Gordon		Check 452 (FD	
Postage)	(139.01)	Rm)	(\$175.00)
Total Expenses	(\$277.00)		
New Balance			
	\$4,312.34		\$4,228.57

Bill Barr presented the Treasurer's Report. Kevin Freeman moved to approve the report, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed.

Address from Rep. Ryan (CD 18)

Chair Nejla Liias welcomed guests, and asked them to introduce themselves. She then turned the meeting over to Rep. Pat Ryan, whose remarks touched both on his work in Congress and on the campaign in the Hudson Valley. He explained the demographics of the district and provided a basic profile of the opponent. During the discussion that followed, he answered questions on topics ranging from how to communicate the administration's successes, to the ethics of the Supreme Court, to the holdup of aid to Ukraine, to many questions about the war in Gaza from a range of perspectives.

June Primary Discussion

Nejla Liias outlined the committee's primary campaign and its plans to begin general election-campaigning in September; she asked what members can do meanwhile to support the Congressional campaign. Pat Ryan introduced field organizer Jacob Hunter and noted that a campaign office is being opened in Kingston. Door knocking and phone banking are getting under way.

In the town's primary, all Democrats in contested districts will receive letters from the Committee. Canvassing will start June 15, the day early voting begins. There will also be phone banking.

Bill Barr proposed a Resolution authorizing the Treasurer be authorized to spend all the money collected specifically for the SDC campaign on materials, postage and other campaign expenses, seconded by Lanny Walter. The motion passed.

Committee Business

Election of Associate Members: Louise Bloomfield moved to nominate for election as associate members six slate candidates who are not current members of the Committee: in Election District (ED) 1, Molly Mackaman; in ED 3, Teresa Giordano; in ED 6, Katie Cokinos; in ED 8, Ken Germano; in ED 11, Nina Schmidbaur; and in ED 15, Aimee Richter. The motion was seconded by Gilda Riccardi. The motion passed.

Ad Hoc Committees: Lanny reported that the Bylaws Committee is identifying updates to recommend. Kathy Gordon reported on the writing committee, Scribes, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1:00 pm at Inquiring Minds to write to voters both locally and nationally on behalf of various campaigns and causes.

Pam Ross Bench Dedication Ceremony: Bill Barr reported on the dedication ceremony held on May 20. The benches have now been placed in position.

July 4 Parade: The SDC will participate; the parade has no specific theme. Brigid Walsh volunteered to organize our participation.

Dual Residents Outreach: Louise reported that Saugerties is participating in the County effort to persuade Dems with primary addresses outside the County to register here. A suggestion was made to broaden the effort to include display materials that would be nonpartisan. Kathy noted that most of the new registrants in the past month have been Democrats, a new trend.

Community Updates

Village: June 1 at the Senior Center there will be the first Saugerties Repair Café. The Library Fair will be held that day from 10am to 2pm.

Town: Town Board member Mike Ivino outlined the issues raised in the press by Joe Maloney about Samadhi's Saugerties location. A new site proposed for Glasco has raised concerns because of mismanagement and mishandling of money at the Washington Avenue site. Bob Gelbach, a member of the County Health Department Community Services Board, requested a briefing at their next meeting.

Mike also noted that the proposed senior housing development on Spaulding Ln has still not been approved.

Mike and several committee members discussed the Winston Farm development; the owners and engineers have received hydrology reports but these have not yet been released.

A zero-waste initiative for the transfer station is under discussion with Greenway (New Paltz). There's also an initiative to promote gardens in the schools, led by Jessica Riozzi.

Kevin Freeman announced that Saturday, June 1, is Wear Orange day against gun violence. Moms Demand Action is sending a group from the Hudson Valley to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18, at 7pm at the Library Community Room.

There being no other business, Louise Bloomfield moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary