

RUTLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES July 10, 2018

INTRODUCTIONS: Rutland County Executive Committee and Candidates were introduced.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: March and May Rutland County Meeting Minutes were approved.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER: Scott Garren reported the balance. There are no Democratic Senate candidates at this time. A motion to give \$150 to Rutland County state representative candidates was approved. Abstention, discussion ensued. In past years, money has largely gone toward VDP (Vermont Democratic Party) coordinated campaign office space. VDP has not yet identified office locations. County offices were previously designated for state, not local, races. Rutland County Democratic Committee's (RCDC) financial commitment was discussed. RCDC is interested in supporting local candidates.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Rep. Robin Chestnut Tangerman discussed the Governor's veto of the budget and the legislature's refusal to consider back-room deals. Negotiation hinged on \$34M. The legislation wanted to prioritize teacher pensions. Following 2 vetoes, a compromise moved forward: One-time money used ½ to buy down tax rates, ½ to fund teacher pension, with a financial "hole" (one-time money not raised through taxes) advancing to next year's budget.

LOCAL CANDIDATES UPDATE: Gina Ottoboni is looking for volunteers for her campaign. Please contact: GINAOTTOBONIVT@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Bushey spoke on behalf of Rose Kennedy whose campaign is also looking for volunteers.

Mary & Dean Droege are sponsoring a fundraiser to support Gina & Heather Juliussen-Stevenson on Sunday, July 22, 5-8pm. See Castleton Indivisible on Facebook for more information. Please RSVP.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES: Rutland High School March for Our Lives Student Activists—Marsha Cassell (Faculty Supervisor), Victoria Quint et al.—discussed their reasons for becoming involved in activism. It began as an act of solidarity with Parkland FL students to raise awareness locally. Although they anticipated a counter-protest, their biggest obstacle was peer involvement. They are thankful for adult support, but would really like more student involvement. Positive outcomes include: bills S.55 and S.422, positive media coverage, and meeting with Rep. Peter Welch at Rutland High School (RHS). On-going advocacy includes: Families Belong Together March, New Neighbors fundraisers to support refugee children, Feminism Club, work with Amnesty International, and an effort to raise a Black Lives Matter flag at RHS. Q & A w/attendees: For Youth For Change, Brattleboro, contact Brenda Seigel's campaign. *March for Our Lives – Rutland* is on Facebook/Instagram. Cheryl Hooker suggested the students obtain and distribute voter registrations to classmates. Adults can support young people by encouraging their agency to speak up and speak out.

STATE CANDIDATES: Dr. Dan Freilich for U.S. Congress Representative. Background: Former Navy. Priorities: 1. Campaign finance reform 2. Wealth equity 3. Single-payer healthcare 4. Green revolution, anti-climate change. *Honor, Courage, Equity, Vermont*. Honor – standard of conduct for politicians. Getting the money out of politics in the pursuit of equity. Honor requires not taking money from special interests. Courage requires denying special interest/corporate money. Equity is the natural outcome of

honor & courage. Progressive taxation for equity, single-payer will save taxpayers money (\$400 per capita VT/\$4k nationally), and be subsidized by companies paying their fair share of taxes. Clean energy transformation. Vermont has excellent schools. Carbon elimination statutory goal. Introduce single-payer.

Brenda Siegel for Governor. Background: Executive Director of Southern Vermont Dance Festival as an economic driver of the Brattleboro Community, which was highly damaged and suffered substantial economic loss following Tropical Storm Irene. Priorities: Paid family medical leave, minimum wage, affordable housing legislation (legislatively we spend money on unfixed problems associated with poverty, which doesn't contribute to tax revenue). Our public schools are undermined. Health and Human Services money can assist with school expenses. In rural communities, schools are often the economic center. Closing schools in these communities is therefore exacerbating these communities' economic woes. Opioid addiction deserves attention, with harm reduction first: overdose prevention, Narcan, clean needle exchange, and a decision not to prosecute street Bute (program to include mobile units). Additional measures include: treatment on demand, healthcare including mental health single-payer; criminal Justice reform mandating training for prosecutors and law enforcement, and the no issuance of warrants for arrests for people in treatment; and taxation and regulation of cannabis (street cannabis is laced with fentanyl, which will lead to opioid addiction). Public transportation needs to be better organized and streamlined. Redefining leadership – creative, vision, and leadership that works for all Vermonters, with intersectional Justice. *The ones closest to the struggle are the ones who should be solving the problems.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

July 25th next Castleton Indivisible meeting at the Leahy Center RRMC.

August 1 Rutland City Democratic Committee Justice of the Peace meeting at the Rutland Free Library 6:30PM. Nominations due August 15 5PM.

Next State Committee Meeting July 21.

State Fair Aug 14-18 volunteers to work with candidates.

Platform convention 8/26.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Filskov and Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Recording Secretary