

RUTLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2018

The Rutland County Democratic Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Julian Fenn, in Leahy Center, Rutland Regional Medical Center.

The September 17, 2018 Rutland County Democratic Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER: Scott Garren reported that we were able to support all of the candidates in the recent campaign seasons while maintaining sufficient funds for moving forward with future activities such as the Women's Brunch. We need to work on fundraising over the next 18 months.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee discussed adding two revisions to the bylaws, which would add two new appointed roles to the Executive Committee. For lack of quorum, these revisions were tabled until the reorganization.

Rutland City Liaison - the Rutland City Liaison shall act as the go-between for the Rutland City and Rutland County Democratic Executive Committees. The Liaison shall have full voting privileges and be responsible for reporting to the County Executive Committee and the County membership any news or changes related to the City Committee and its delegation.

Grassroots Liaison - the Grassroots Liaison shall act as the go-between for the Rutland County Democratic Executive Committee and its allied grassroots organizations, including but not limited to Rutland area National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rights and Democracy (RAD), Castleton Indivisible, Migrant Justice, and other groups as appropriate. The Grassroots Liaison will be responsible for updating the County membership and the Executive Committee regarding events, actions, and opportunities provided by these groups. During election season, the Grassroots Liaison is also responsible for maintaining communication between the Rutland County Democratic Committee and these groups and acting as a 'lead' to ensure that groups are working in a coordinated fashion, in communication with all other vested interests.

Candidates in the recent campaign cycle were invited to share their feedback about the recent election.

- Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, who ran for Representative in Rutland 5-1, discussed her work on both sides of the fence, as a member of the Executive Committee and as a candidate, and said that the Executive Committee is working on a draft Standard Operating Procedure to sure that institutional knowledge is preserved.
- William Notte, elected as Representative of Rutland 5-4, commented on the lack of candidate signs at some polls and the negative press surrounding our reliance on write-in candidates for the Senate.
- Elizabeth Filiskov, elected as Justice of the Peace in Wallingford, discussed her experience running for the first time and the relative ease with which she was able to get her foot in the door.
- David Potter, reelected as Representative in Rutland-2 discussed the advantages and disadvantages of running in a two-seat district.
- Gina Ottoboni, who ran for Representative in Rutland-Windsor-1, offered to share her ideas about how to flip the county with interested parties.

- Scott Garren, who ran for Senate, expressed his appreciation for the allied groups who helped to boost the campaigns and discussed the coordinated campaign between the Senate candidates and the Representative candidates.

Members were invited to share their feedback about the recent election.

- Logan Nicoll's success in Rutland-Windsor-2 was highlighted; his narrow win shows how every vote matters.
- Stephanie Jerome's adherence to the campaign plan of the Vermont Democratic Party (VDP) organizer, Jim Dandenau, was pointed out as an important factor in her success.
- Attention was drawn to the need to begin recruiting candidates as early as possible. We also need to encourage more Democrats to run for down ballot offices: school board, town jobs, etc., to gain experience and name recognition.
- Concern was raised with regard to ensuring follow-through on legislation like Act 48, universal healthcare; it's not enough to pass feel-good legislation, the legislation needs to be acted upon.
- In response to a question, Julian explained that the VDP has statistics to identify swing voters and the frequency with which a person votes.
- In response to a question, the Executive Committee explained that the Rutland County Democratic Committee only did phone-banking to find volunteers. The phone-banking performed by the VDP was prioritized according to partisanship scores in the voter file.
 - Concerns were raised with regard to the quality of the data generating these scores and how much local knowledge can be pulled in.
- The importance of door-knocking regardless of a person's partisanship score was emphasized.
- The Rutland County Executive Committee was encouraged to ensure more opportunities for debates or forums with candidates filmed by PegTV.
- Potential candidates should endeavor to take advantage of appearing on PegTV as often as possible.

Kate Logan of RAD described its work during the last election cycle, including RAD's endorsement of candidates and canvassing on behalf of all the Rutland County Democratic candidates. She also discussed the plan to launch a Rutland County campaign to achieve important legislative goals in 2019. A celebration/organizing meeting is planned for December.

Mary Droege of Castleton Indivisible described its work during the last election cycle, including canvassing and writing postcards.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Recording Secretary