

Minutes of the Rutland County Executive Committee – January 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

Present were Chris Larson, Chair; Julian Fenn, Vice Chair; Derek Gavelis, Assistant Treasurer; Kathy Hall, Delegate to the VDP; Cedelle Sirjane, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara Hoffman, Alternate to VDP

Chris announced that the Rutland City Democratic Committee is re-organizing to allow those who have served for a very long time to retire.

The meeting of the VDP held on January 7 in Barre and attended by Chris, Kathy, Julian and Barbara was discussed. A summary will be provided at the next county meeting. Kathy will contact Steve Amos, VDP secretary, to obtain the official minutes of the VDP meeting.

Chris presented his vision for the work of the RCDC going forward:

- *to develop a “Blueprint 2020” plan to clarify RCDC goals for Rutland County

- *to articulate our own Rutland County Platform to be aligned as much as possible with the new VDP Platform passed in August 2016

- *to meet with town committees to present the Rutland County Platform and ways to coordinate our efforts

- *to fund raise within the county for the purpose of funding our own local Coordinated Campaign headed by our own local field organizer to help coordinate the campaigns of local candidates and to counter the impact of PAC advertising

(the VDP Coordinated Campaign would focus on statewide races only)

- *launch a fund raising campaign to pay for a local County Coordinated Campaign

 - a. encourage Rutland County Democrats to consider committing to a monthly sustaining contribution of any amount

 - b. set up an Act Blue account for RCDC contributions

 - c. fundraising events

- *to look for candidates to run for office in towns, college campuses, etc.

*to recognize, communicate and celebrate all that is RIGHT and GOOD about Rutland County and build upon the solid foundation we have

The committee added further suggestions:

*to have a "Listening Campaign" to get input from Rutland County Town Committees and as many county Democrats as possible

*to hold social/educational events to enable us to get to know each other and become better informed citizens such as film showings, etc.

There was discussion of the 2016 Rutland County campaigns.

It was agreed that the 2016 VDP Platform document and RCDC Executive Committee minutes be sent to the entire RCDC contact list.

Questions arose about how the new DNC Chair will be chosen. Kathy Hall will request resumes of the candidates and Cedelle will ask the VDP about how the process works specifically.

It was agreed that the executive committee will send a letter of thanks to the 2016 VDP Platform Committee.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee will request a change in the bylaws at the next County meeting to allow it to make decision via email rather than only when gathered in person.

It was agreed that Barbara Hoffman will serve as communications coordinator in charge of selecting emails to be sent to all county Democrats on a regular basis. These will include notices of county and state meetings and their agendas, educational information on issues and candidates, notices of political actions, etc. She will confer regularly with Chris Larson and no email blast will be sent out without his final approval.

We decided that the Women's Brunch will be held again this year. Kathy Hall will be the chair. It was agreed to explore the idea of holding the brunch at the Franklin Center in hopes of saving money and providing a venue that is more centrally located and easily accessible.

A schedule of RCDC executive committee and county meetings was proposed:

Executive Committee meetings: 1st Mondays of odd months

County Meetings: 1st Mondays of even months

(meetings are scheduled for Mondays so that office holders can attend)

The exception will be February's county meeting which will be held on either Feb. 13 or Feb. 20th depending on the availability of the Fox Room at the Rutland Library. Barbara Foley will inquire.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hoffman

(Barbara Foley, secretary, not able to attend this meeting)