

Rutland County Democratic Committee

1/14/19, 6:30 p.m., Fox Room, Rutland Free Library

Quorum verified.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were emailed. Motion made to approve, vote called, all in favor. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman abstained. Minutes approved.

2. Election of Chair; Creation of Grassroots and Rutland City Liaisons:

Nominations for Chair from the floor. Heather Juliussen-Stevens was nominated and seconded. Heather has been a member of the Executive Com. for 1 year. Interested in grassroots work and community events. She is working to create documents for board positions for future use. Vote called, all in favor, Robin abstained.

Vote for Secretary. Carol Wright nominated and seconded. She has experience taking minutes with the VT State School Nurse Association. Nominations closed, all in favor, Robin abstained.

3. Creation of two new positions:

Grassroots Liaison to work with NAACP, 350VT, etc., to show commitment to communities.

Rutland City Liaison – Rutland City is the biggest population center for Rutland County. This person would facilitate collaboration between Rutland City and the rest of the county.

A hard copy describing both positions was presented at the last meeting. Heather checked the bylaws to verify that the two positions have been appropriately warned. An email was also sent out. These aren't elected position, but appointed. A separate vote was called for each position. All in favor, Robin abstained.

Some people are having trouble receiving emails. A list was made of people in the room who aren't getting email, so it can be addressed.

4. Legislative Update:

Sen. Cheryl Hooker – She has been appointed to Institutions and Economic Dev. She hopes to get more attention from the state for Rutland Co. She is looking forward to hearing from all of us. Institutions deals with buildings and grounds. Also deals with the Capital bill (upkeep and construction).

Rep. Dave Potter – On the Transportation Committee in the House. The committee leadership has changed. Transportation Committee will try to do something about carbon, similar to what's being done with electricity—regional approach. Environmental supporters were present the first few days. Dave will stand up for Rutland County on the committee. Ron Pulcer suggested incentivizing employees working from home instead of commuting.

Rep. Mary Howard – 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Appointed to House General Military Affairs Committee. Committee deals with a variety of bills from liquor and lottery to green burials. Will probably take up min. wage and family leave. Off to a busy session.

Rep. William Nott- Very pleased to be part of the freshman class. Legislature is starting to reflect more of VT. He's on the Judiciary Committee. Welcomes concerns and comments. We're changing the narrative in representation for Rutland Co. Need to find candidates for next time. People will be energized by what the legislature will do in the next 2 years. He didn't have as much money as his opponent, but he had endorsements from his work on the Board of Aldermen. We need to look at good local officials for state office.

Rep. Logan Nicoll – From Ludlow, freshman legislature. On Human Services committee, which is a good match for his issues such as affordable child care, substance abuse. He's spoken with the Republicans on his committee and looking forward to reaching across the aisle. He's encouraged by the diversity in the state house.

Rep. Robin Chestnut Tangerman – 3<sup>rd</sup> term, Progressive/Democrat. Also excited about the incoming freshmen, more women and younger people. He's on Energy and Technology Committee. He will be trying to get broadband throughout the state. Question about what Maine and New Hampshire are doing about broadband. He is meeting with Christine to discuss broadband next week. Comment that the houses that sell the fastest have good internet and cell service.

#### 5. Local Elections/Town Meeting Day:

The Rutland County Website lists the open positions. Heather encouraged us all to get our interested contacts to run. Getting out and talking about the issues matters. Participate in Town Meeting Day.

Liz Filskov introduced herself; she is running for school board in Wallingford.

Hurley Cavacas introduced himself; he is running for 4<sup>th</sup> term on Rutland City School Board. We need to get people to run for School Board. Special Ed funding is down dramatically. Watching Act. 60. There are 4 openings this year.

#### 6. Pre-2020 election plans; VDP Messaging Committee:

Heather will be working to build community. Set up local events. Encourage your friends and families to go to events. We need to support each other. We need to work with allied groups, but maintain our own identity as we mobilize for people.

People often have comments on Democratic messaging. The VDP is working on this. Liz is on the committee and can get you more information.

#### 7. Special Guest: 350Vermont representative Candy Jones

350VT doesn't endorse particular candidates, but their values do align with the Democratic platform. They are establishing a node in Rutland County. Some of the campaigns are: climate resolution in individual towns (with Rights and Democracy). 30-35 towns have already endorsed a climate resolution for renewable energy by 2030. There are 5 towns in Rutland County with petitions out, and these will be voted on during Town Meeting Day. These resolutions are shared with the governor and the legislature, and demonstrate our commitment to clean energy. She recommended the book Project

Drawdown which has 100 solutions for climate change. 350VT is working collectively with other organizations, such as Marble Valley Transit (get more people to use public transportation). Suggestion to have a book club and to read Project Drawdown.

8. Other:

Better Angels: Carol talked about Better Angels project. She needs a Republican leader to work with her to put together a workshop to promote civil discourse across party lines. She asked that anyone who knows a well-connected Republican to contact them and let her know if they are interested. More information on the Better Angels website.

Liz mentioned the Rights and Democracy potluck on Friday, 6 p.m., Grace Church and a Building Bright Futures event.

Kathy Hall reported the Brunch Committee met last week. They will do a brunch this year. The committee has identified 3 potential speakers. The brunch will be co-ed. Save these dates: 4/28 or 5/5. It will be either of those Sundays. We need this to be a successful fundraiser. It will be at the Holiday Inn.

Discussion of campaign messaging on the minimum wage law. Did Gov. Scott lose votes because of his veto? How to capitalize on the veto while maintaining a positive campaign.

Adjourn: 8:15

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright, Recording Secretary