

RUTLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

MINUTES July 18, 2019

The Rutland County Democratic Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm by Heather Juliussen-Stevenson.

Report from the Secretary: The May 2019 Rutland County Democratic Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Garren reported that the current balance, \$6,639.90, is slightly higher than the balance this time last cycle, \$6,310.

Legislative update: Responding to a question about making up revenue lost to electric vehicle non-fuel sales, Rep. Potter said that taxes will be recouped at the point of charge and that Vermont is working on increasing the number of public charging stations. The latter is important given Vermont's tourism industry. Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman indicated that Transportation and Commerce are discussing the best ways to share information about public charging stations, particularly for tourists. Rep. Jerome indicated that at least one reasonably priced 4-wheel drive vehicle is currently available.

Regarding paid family medical leave and raising the minimum wage, Rep. Notte and Rep. Potter agreed that both were likely to pass both the House and Senate during the next session. Rep. Howard indicated that both pieces of legislation were a high priority for her.

Regarding the legislation that was recently passed to increase access to broadband, Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman said that it was still in the process of rollout. Towns are required to provide some of the maintenance. Minimal power usage; requires meter + taxing and carrier. Technology quickly becoming obsolete. Federal law says providers have to offer subscribers back-up power. Telecom providers are working on generators at substations.

Rep. Potter indicated that legislation had also been passed to clean-up Lake Champlain.

Reorganization: The process and timelines are changing slightly. The Rutland County Democratic Executive Committee will be sharing this information as soon as it becomes available. The Executive Committee will be helping towns to recruit but Town Chairs should reach out to their contacts.

Candidates: Ideas for candidates for March 2020 and November 2020 should be communicated to the Rutland County Democratic Executive Committee as soon as possible.

2020 Census: Michael Henry, an employee with the Census Bureau, spoke about the need for more staff working on the 2020 Census. Rutland County Democrats are encouraged to reach out to their contacts. To apply online: <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>.

Announcements:

Rutland City Democrats meeting on August 6th at 6pm at the Rutland Free Library

Bill McKibben will be speaking on October 9th at Castleton University

Rights and Democracy will be holding a L.E.A.D Training on October 19th at Rutland

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Filskov, 3rd Alternate to the State Committee