

## Rutland County Democrat Executive Committee

June 10, 2019 Minutes

### Conference Room, Rutland Free Library

Present: Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Scott Garren, Mary Mellow, Carol Wright, Liz Filskov, Eugenia Cooke

The Rutland County Democrat Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Heather Juliussen-Stevenson.

1. **Report from the Secretary:** The April 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Fundraising Update:** Eugenia will discuss this in the July County meeting.
3. **Master List:** Mary had one change of address which she will send to Eugenia. Eugenia will maintain the master list for the time being. Eugenia will follow up with Bunny on some of the returns to senders (around 27). We will discuss access to the master list with Kathy.
4. **Request to Reschedule Rutland County Democrat Meetings:** Discussion of having a July meeting. We will try to meet Gina's request to change meeting day this summer. Discussion about whether town meetings affect our meetings. When the legislators are in session, we will stick with Monday. Discussion about pros and cons of changing meeting day from 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday to the third Thursday, when nothing else is scheduled. Will meet on July 18<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday). Eugenia will find a space.  
Agenda for July will include talking to legislators. Discussion about including town chairs. Scott suggested we call town chairs after the VDP sends out reorganization information. We will have a brief meeting with the legislators, then town chairs, prior to meeting with the county committee on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
5. **County-wide Newsletter:** Heather will try to send this out this week. Suggestion to include the legislative talking points. Heather made a great video on the RCD website. Liz recommended further sharing the video.
6. **Facebook:** Discussion about Facebook.
7. **Inventory:** Mary plans to go over to Margaret's to check the inventory. She will call Cheryl to find out a good date for her.
8. **Candidate Recruitment:** Heather hasn't contacted people yet. She will confirm with all legislators that they are rerunning. Peter Fagan isn't running again. We potentially need to find some candidates. Discussion of a few potential names. Discussion about the role of town chairs in identifying candidates. Heather suggested we reach out to people we know. Suggestion to include legislators. Heather is thinking about a targeted email to people in towns regarding potential candidates. This would be a custom newsletter. Suggestion to divide up towns amongst us to contact potential candidates.

## Events

1. Lessons Learned
  - a. Women's Brunch – Kathy is writing up instructions. She is happy with how it turned out. We'll wait to hear more from her.
  - b. **Next Book: David Faris *It's Time to Fight Dirty*** Heather will check into book availability.
  - c. Film **From Ike to Trump** – Heather reported a big turnout (11 people!). It does suggest that people are interested.
  - d. Memorial Day Parades – Liz and Heather discussed the Middletown Springs and Wallingford parades. Heather, Liz, and some legislators and their families attended the Middletown Springs Parade. Mary and Cheryl joined Heather and Liz at the Wallingford Parade.
  
2. Late May – August Summer Listening Campaign/Canvassing – Other than Rutland City, we need to identify good places to canvass. We will be emailing Town Chairs to say something like: We will be canvassing in Rutland County this spring and summer. Do you have suggestions for good areas to canvass in your town? Do you want to help recruit volunteers? Please let us know. (Note: All Town Chairs have a right to access the VDP's VAN, so if you're not already signed up, we can help you get signed up.)  
Point-person: Heather
 

Heather has been unable to access the Democrat voter information in VAN. In 2017 the VDP ran a list of information such as who was a strong Dem, through VAN. She has contacted Brandon about lack of access. Mary Droege has suggested to Heather that we contact people on our list, especially in towns without town chairs. Heather read a proposed script. We would encourage people to contact their representatives with any concerns and encourage people to become more involved. Discussion about taking any notes about contacts, even without voter lists. VAN is currently inaccessible to us.
  
3. Summer - Meeting this summer with House and Senate legislators to discuss messaging and campaigning, etc.  
They will be asked to come to 7/18 meeting 2 hours early.
  
4. Summer - Friday Night Live – **Need materials for distribution, such as bumper stickers. VDP has ordered a new shipment.**  
Point-person: Heather will ask Brandon.
  
5. July 4<sup>th</sup> parades in Poultney, Castleton and Brandon.  
Point-person: Heather  
Discussion of participating in Poultney parade. We need to find the Dem. banner. Liz plans on doing Poultney and Brandon. We're already reserved for Castleton. Jacob may be walking for us in Poultney. Heather will send a targeted email to encourage participation.
  
6. Summer and early Fall – Reorganization -

7. August Vermont State Fair – skipping
8. Starting mid-late August - Issue Forums on legislation expected to be of interest in the fall legislative session. **I've reached out to the VT Humanities about experts on the VT Constitution.**  
Point-person: Heather and Liz Heather has reached out and hasn't heard anything back.
9. Autumn – 1<sup>st</sup> Coffeehouse Conversation – First topic: “Civility on the Left.” Goal: Create space for conversations like this to avoid the divisive kind of behavior that happened in 2016 (behavior that we're already seeing on the left with regard to the Presidential election in 2020).
10. Starting early October - Writing for Change – Meeting of area authors to discuss how politics and activism affect their work. **Heather already has a list, but do you know area writers or writing groups that would be worth reaching out to?**  
Point-person: Heather
11. Fall - Harvest Tinmouth Dinner  
Point-person: Tentatively Kathy
12. Other – resistance art show, clothing drive, provide groceries for local food shelf, Volunteering for Boys & Girls Club, volunteering to read literature of diversity for local daycare centers or at the library as a child-centered event, etc. **Other ideas?**

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Secretary