

December 9, 2019 Minutes

Rutland County Democratic Committee

Fox Room, Rutland Free Library 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Rutland County Democratic Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Heather Juliussen-Stevenson. Heather welcomed all in attendance.

Report from the Secretary: The minutes from the October 2019 meeting were sent out in advance and also printed on the back of the agenda. Heather asked those present to review the minutes. It was noted there were 3 corrections needed to names, misspelling of Scott Garren and under Delegates to the State: Liz Filskov (Alt. 1) and Eugenia Cooke (Alt. 2). There was also discussion and clarification of Corresponding Secretary's Facebook responsibilities. Motion made and seconded to approve October 2019 minutes as corrected. Minutes approved unanimously. Original minutes corrected by Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Garren reported income of \$285.00 from the Harvest Dinner. Closing Balance of \$6,882.56. Discussion of Harvest Dinner. Hope to continue next year and include Brandon if scheduling works.

Introduction of Legislators: Each Legislator briefly discussed some of the issues they will be working on this upcoming session.

Cheryl Hooker – climate change, economic development

Dave Potter – paid family and minimum wage, climate change, Act 250

Stephanie Jerome – women's prison, judicial reform

Mary Howard – paid family leave, minimum wage

Robin Chesnut-Tangerman – activity on renewable energy and climate change. There was a Climate Forum on Saturday night, it was well attended. Heather will email the plan that Robin presented at the forum to the Rutland County Democrats.

Kathy Hall announced that Billy Cohen, a Rutland native, has been appointed to the VT Supreme Court. Rutland Co. has two people on the VT Supreme Court.

Introduction and welcome of newcomers.

New Business: Gubernatorial candidate Rebecca Holcombe – Rebecca discussed her past experience as Secretary of Education and her personal background. She stressed the importance of working together to make improvements for all and the importance of investing in education for our kids and the future. As governor, she would work closely to support our legislature so they can do their best job. She is hearing from voters about economic issues, especially healthcare: We can't control property taxes if we have double digit healthcare cost increases. Another issue she's hearing about is housing: Employers can't bring people in to work because

there aren't places to live. She thanked the legislators for educating the public on climate change this summer. She is hearing more concerns about climate change from the public. She answered questions from the audience about the viability of the State Board of Education, workforce development, healthcare costs, Act 46 – school consolidations (it worked in some communities, not in all), the costs of higher education, policies to support ethnic diversity, and Act 250 (which protects small communities with the intent of maintaining vibrant downtowns and our pastoral landscapes, school funding (taxes), racial justice and refugee resettlement.

Announcements: Rob and Jacob announced an Extinction Rebellion group meeting tomorrow night. It will be a presentation on updated climate information. 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the Library.

Heather reminded us that Rutland County has some climate change deniers and that Republicans are mounting attacks based on false allegations regarding last session's stalled weatherization bill.

Liz announced that Rights & Democracy is asking citizen activists to

- support the livable wage and paid leave legislation
- ask Gov. Phil Scott which of his climate initiatives he will implement in 2020
- ask local legislators to get behind the climate caucus.

Rutland Regional Medical Center board is seeking a citizen member. Anyone who's interested should contact Liz.

Liz or Heather should be contacted by anyone interested in running for any level of office. Democrats are encouraged to join local boards as these positions can provide leverage on key issues.

Legislators emphasized their accessibility. They want to hear from constituents.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary