

Rutland County Democrats Executive Committee
Zoom Meeting
Friday, 8/21/20, 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Heather at 7:01 p.m.

1. Secretary's Report - Minutes from July 13, 2020 aren't available at this time for review. All agreed to delay approval of July minutes until next meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report – Scott discussed the amount of money which has been sent to candidates thus far. Checks have gone out to the House candidates, except for Mary Howard. We need to send Mary a check now. Motion made and seconded to send \$500 to Mary Howard. Motion approved.

We have a balance of \$8,731.00. This is on top of \$4,000.00 that's already been sent. The check sent to Will Notte for \$500 has not cleared. We have \$8,200 to spend. We need to be strategic. Discussion of purchasing Biden/Harris signs for ~\$2 each and sending out GOTV letters. We need to keep some cash reserve (\$1000?). We might ask for donations for Biden signs.

Motion made and seconded to send \$1500 to Senate candidates. Discussion concerning lack of coordinated campaign and the 4 Independents. Discussion about doing Facebook, Twitter, Herald campaigns jointly. House candidates can ask for more money if they need it. Motion failed.

New motion to give \$1000 to each Senate candidate made and seconded. Motion failed.

Motion to give \$800 check to each Senate candidate. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Scott, Mary and Kathy formed a working group to help design a Rutland County Democrats Biden/Harris lawn sign. We could ask for a donation of \$5 per sign. Kathy will email Kathy Mallillo to ask for design help with signs.

Scott will revise the budget and email it to the Executive Committee.

Kathy motioned to spend up to \$400 on Biden/Harris signs. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Eugenia left the meeting.

3. Discussion about communication regarding the independent senate candidates.

4. Discussion of how to turn out the youth vote. Castleton University is interested working on a bipartisan GOTV effort. We need to ask people if their kids are voting. Scott suggested Instagram ads, Facebook ads. Scott asked about the student newspaper. Mary will look into an article in the student paper. Heather will look into an Instagram ad.
5. Discussion about House candidates:
 - a. Mary Howard's opponent, John Cioffi, is a gun shop owner and former president of the Italian Club. His father is well known locally.
 - b. Art Peterson's racist and homophobic efforts against flying the Black Lives Matter and Pride flags at Mill River schools was discussed, along with what constitutes negative campaigning as opposed to a necessary pushback against racism and homophobia.
 - c. Bob Richards is interested in boosting awareness of Bob Helm's connection with ALEC. Heather will talk to Kathy (who left the meeting) about this.
 - d. Discussion about exposing the candidates who support Klar. Liz and Heather will follow up.
6. Regarding the race for Justices of the Peace in Pittsford, Heather will ask Scott (who left the meeting at 8:17 pm) if we can use VAN for JP write-ins. Andy Hatem is the VAN person: ahatem@vtdemocrats.org
7. Lydia Gulick, the new Rutland County VDP staffer, has reached out. Right now, her focus is on outreach for candidates outside our area.
8. Stephanie Jerome and Bob Richards are the only candidates who have given Heather schedules for honk and waves. Heather will add the events to the Facebook page. Liz and Heather are working on getting all the signs.
9. Bob Richards has given us postcards. Stephanie Jerome and Cheryl Hooker will probably send some, but may do a lit drop instead. Carol will help Heather with some postcards for Bob Richards.
10. If the RAD-endorsed candidates do a lit drop, Liz can help. We may be able to include Tabitha Moore. We want to be done with a lit drop by October 10th. Heather sent Liz a sample timeline. Liz has volunteered her house for sorting materials. One person in each district will need to get materials to the volunteers. Heather will do Rutland Town and City. Mary will be point person for Bob Richards. Liz will be the point person for someone in Wallingford. Heather will add candidates to the list that we will assist.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Wright,
Recording Secretary