

Meeting of the Rutland County Democratic Committee
December 13, 2023

Full committee: Theresa Biasuzzi, Wyatt Waterman, Mary Droege, Annie Stratton, Barbara Pulling. Carol Wright, Elizabeth Reddy, Megan Smith, Mary Mellow, Brandon Stratton, Gary Derr, Erin and Antonin Robasson, Tom Fagan, Robin Chesnut Tangerman, Pat Schroeder, Erika Berner, Russ Glitman, Jonathan Gibson, Josh Ferguson, Andy Tanger, Charlotte Gerstein, Melissa Reichert

Agenda acceptance: Pat Schroeder moved, seconded by Wyatt Waterman to accept. Discussion. Added into the agenda, approval of last meeting (October 11) minutes which were sent out by Carol Wright . Vote: Carried

Treasurer's Report. \$6,055 on hand, including a \$50 donation since last report. \$13.98 in costs . Scott's assessment is that it is not a great start, but not desperate - yet. Unknown: what will VDP do to help out, given their financial issues. Treasurer's report was accepted by the committee.

Minutes from 10/11 were not readily available, so acceptance thereof was put on hold until next meeting.

Barbara discussed the Email newsletter which she hopes to do quarterly.

Mary Droege, Josh Ferguson, Tom Fagan. and Barbara Pulling went to a VDP reorg meeting on 11/18 in Barre. The Committee discussed caucus openings for anyone at VDP. Budget, Fund-raising, Media, Grassroots, Rules/Bylaws, VDP platform were among the potential caucuses for volunteers. The full list can be found on the VDP web site.

Discussion about the Chicago convention in August, looking for delegates. Cost per delegate is estimated at \$4,000 per person. Josh Ferguson suggested it would be good to help fund a delegate for whom this cost would be prohibitive. He also suggested a young member and/or a member of local labor. Members thought this was a good suggestion. Josh added that the national committee for young democrats participated in a training for delegate selection process.

Mary Droege spoke about the county chairs meeting she attended. There were 67 people on this Zoom call for this meeting, and Mary was impressed by participation.

Election of vice chair: Wyatt Waterman moved, Jonathan Gibson seconded to accept Scott Garren as the vice Chair. Vote passed. Scott is now vice Chair and Treasurer.

Mary wants to start encouraging people to find candidates for 2024. Robin seconded Mary's urging people to start looking for candidates. Petitions due in spring. Robin

added that running is an “amazing opportunity to meet people” to hear other perspectives, etc. Megan Smith said that she thought it was a great opportunity to meet people, too. Question was raised: are all incumbents running again? Not known at this time.

Fund-raising ideas. Annual appeal letter hopefully ready by April. Low-overhead events needed, but venues are scarce. Town hall in West Rutland was suggested, not the main room, but another smaller one less expensive - and warmer!

The second floor of town hall in Wallingford was also suggested, plus the Little Red School House with kitchen (\$50?) The Glock Room in Wallingford Library would also be a possibility.

BetsybRedding suggested that we find area musicians willing to perform, charge ticket price. Wyatt Waterman suggested the Brandon Town Hall and offered his PA system for any events.

Eugenia Cooke offered to look into these various venues.

Megan Smith suggested the folks at Inn at the Long Trail who are solid Democrats might be able to host an event.

Jonathan Gibson recalled a fund-raiser in Wallingford, suggesting we invite a prominent person (Becca Ballint) to help at a fund-raiser. Robin said he could reach out to Becca to ask her to ab event. Jonathan added in that the Shrewsbury Town Hall is a great venue (\$50?), though it was decided that given the location, it might be a better place for an outdoor summer event.

Next meeting will be 2/7, a Wednesday, to avoid Valentine’s Day and the Presidents Week vacations.

Erika Berner moved and Eugenia seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned around 7:35 P.