

## **Rutland County Democrats Executive Committee**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**January 10, 2022, 7:00 – 8:18 p.m.**

Present: Noah French, Annie Stratton, Josh Ferguson, Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Anna Tadio, Eugenia Cooke, Carol Wright

#### **Old Business:**

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$4,465.19. There were about 8 deposits last week totaling \$573.02. Good balance for this time of year.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the Ex. Committee meeting of Nov. 8, 2021 were emailed in advance of the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes made and seconded. Minutes approved.

#### **New Business:**

Fundraising – Discussion of fundraising letter. Printing has been done in the past by Quick Print. Letters mailed to prior donors (approximately 100) over the previous 3 years. More were sent in previous years. Kathy Hall hand-addressed envelopes. We've also included hand-written notes to donors. Last year we also sent an email version of the letter. We did well from that and also using Act Blue.

Noah asked about posting on Facebook account. How much is posted by Heather? Kristen has posted for the last several weeks. Postings vary. Heather will check to make sure Noah is approved to post.

Josh questioned whether we need to make further inquiries to a recent email. The email was confusing and difficult to interpret. There may be legitimate concerns, but not well explained. Annie had shared her thoughts by email and discussed some concerns. Carol questioned whether it was a good use of our limited time.

Discussion of organizing a fundraiser leading up to the primary. Could town committees help with this? Possibility of having a special meeting for the town leaders. Noah will try to organize something on Zoom. Annie suggested that each person could present on what's going on in their towns. Discussion of difficulty getting the towns to come to the county meetings in the last 4 years. County meetings would be a forum for town leaders. Noah is willing to reach out to some of the larger towns. Annie offered to help. Heather will send everyone information on town leaders.

Noah will send us an email regarding an introductory meeting for the chairs at the county meeting. He will open it up to all the officers.

Noah is working on a rough draft of fundraising letter. He will send it to Carol to read over. Annie will help with graphics.

Joshua is working on an op-ed to support the elimination of the tax on military pension.

Discussion of how much we usually fundraise (\$2,500-4,500) and expenses. Biggest expenses are candidate support, website, printing, supplies (labels, envelopes, etc.) We vote on amounts for house and senate candidates. In the past, we have asked for proposals to consider. Only once supported town

candidates with VAN in 2021. We also like to keep a baseline in the account. Heather explained how the funding is decided. We get input from Scott on his recommendations.

Joshua said he would offer a matching donation to encourage increased money flow and to also encourage others to do the same.

Discussion of bringing in younger candidates into positions so they can be cultivated to serve in higher positions. It can be costly for younger candidates and they may have more time constraints. There are pros and cons to the VT way of people in office working their way up.

Anna Tadio has formed a local PAC—Rutland Forward. There will be a fundraiser for local candidates.

Next Meeting – Noah asked us to email him with any ideas for the next county meeting. Discussion of having Molly and Becca come down to meet with our community. Candidates have come down in the past and it will probably happen again.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary