

## **Rutland County Democrats Committee Meeting**

**Monday, April 11, 2022, 7:00 – 8:10 p.m.**

### **Zoom/Phone**

The Rutland County Democrats Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Anna Tadio. Noah French not present.

**Report from the Secretary:** Minutes of the Rutland County Democrats Committee February 21, 2022 meeting were sent out for review with the meeting notice. Motion to approve minutes made and seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Minutes approved.

**Report from the Treasurer:** Eugenia Cooke reported no incoming deposits or expenses. Eugenia is unaware of any recurrent expenses. Balance is \$4,523.94, same as last month.

### **New Business:**

#### **Candidates for State/Federal Offices:**

Rutland County Democrats welcome all Democratic candidates. Four candidates were present to speak and answer questions.

**Senator Becca Balint** – Sen. Balint is running for the Congressional House seat.

<https://www.beccabalint.com/>

Becca is the current VT Senate President Pro Tem and Majority Leader. She described her background in education and as a middle school teacher prior to being elected to represent Windham County. Community connections are very important. Becca supports the progressive/democratic platform and wants to bring her experience as a mom, teacher, and justice fighter to Congress. She describes herself as a coalition builder. As a gay woman, she has had to figure out how to do her work despite hate. Families and working people are struggling. Sen. Balint supports programs to support all Vermonters and small businesses.

**Charles Kimbell for Lt. Gov.** - <https://charliekimbell.com/>

Charles lives in Woodstock and has served 3 terms in the VT Legislature. He described his business history throughout the state and work with nonprofit boards. He is a moderate democrat. The role of Lt. Gov. is to look at long-term issues, such as career development here in VT. We have common issues: housing, child care, and paid family leave. He wants to bring together the stakeholders to work on creative solutions.

**Kitty Toll for Lt. Gov.** - <https://www.kittyforvt.com/>

Kitty grew up and still lives in the NE Kingdom. She described her background as a middle school teacher, member of the Vt. Legislature, and community service. She has served as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and has extensive experience balancing and managing budgets. Kitty worked on COVID federal funds, which sparked her interest to advocate for Vermonters and businesses-- housing, child care, and broadband. A consensus builder with the budget. January 6 showed that the foundation of democracy is being chipped away, even in VT.

**Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters** – Deputy Secretary Winters is running for Secretary of State

<https://www.wintersforvermont.com/>

Chris is current Deputy to Jim Condos. He's committed to maintaining excellence in the Sec. of State's office. VT is a designated leader in elections. His entire career has been in public service. He worked his way up through the Secretary of State's office and has been involved in all aspects of the office. He seeks justice for the under-represented. Chris discussed his passion about elections, transparency, and voting rights. COVID, misinformation, and death threats to people doing their jobs have complicated the process. We need to stay vigilant and lead other states. There was record breaking voting by mail during the pandemic. We need to keep our elections safe and secure and to defend democracy through civic engagement and education.

**VT Green Up Day, May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Anna reminded us about the upcoming Green Up Day and the mission to keep VT beautiful. We were encouraged to go out to clean up our communities. Please send photos of your efforts to Anna. Details on the website: <https://greenupvermont.org/>

#### **Legislative Reports:**

**Senator Cheryl Hooker** – This is a busy time; pushing for adjournment in 3 weeks. The Education Com. Is working through changes on the unified school districts legislation. Implications of school tuition legislation are being examined, especially in regards to religious schools. Health Care Com. Is working on licensing pharmacy benefits managers. Also working to make sure that families of adult children with disabilities have the supports they need as the parents age.

Cheryl addressed opportunities for to make progress with redistricting. We need to look for candidates for these opportunities. There will need to be education with the redistricting.

**Representative Mary Howard** – Busy time on General Housing and Military Affairs Committee. Have received a requested detailed report from the National Guard on sexual assaults. Have a vast assortment of bills to consider.

**Curtis-Hoff Dinner** – Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. Kathy Hall reminded us about the annual fundraiser/awards dinner. She would like to fill a table from Rutland County. The agenda is changing to move faster. If any one is interested in going, please contact Kathy. She would be happy to sponsor a couple of people. <https://events.democrats.org/event/447904/>

**Fundraising Letter** – Anna updated us that our annual fundraising letter is currently in progress.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright,

Recording Secretary