

Rutland County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting

August 23, 2022, 6:45 p.m. – 8:12 p.m.

Mary Mellow's House/Phone

Present: Mary Mellow, Anna Tadio, Carol Wright, Barbara Noyes Pulling (phone), Eugenia Cooke, Josh Ferguson

Not Present: Scott Garren

Welcome - Mary Mellow called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Secretary's Report – The draft minutes from the Executive Committee meetings of July 11, 2022, were sent out on July 14, 2022. Motion to approve July minutes. Motion seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Eugenia reported a balance of \$6,478.05. Report is the same as for the August RCDC general meeting. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded. Report approved.

Old Business:

Membership Contact Lists—Eugenia has maintained the spread sheet which she received from Kathy Hall. The list includes names, addresses, phone numbers and a fundraiser column for people in the county. This list is not coordinated with the email list for new people. Unsure how the list has been maintained. Some address changes made after the last mailing. Carol doesn't send anything out to county members. Motion made for Mary and Eugenia to revise the master list. Motion seconded and approved.

Mary can share the list of town chairs, if needed. After the election, the website will need to be updated with the town chairs. The list of town chairs will include the county delegates and alternatives from the towns.

Mary will send us the county-wide list of campaign candidates.

Discussion of a list of all the town committee members. The VDP's website has a list of town chairs and delegates. Mary will find out if it's restricted. Mary has been working on the current list and will share.

Messaging Apps – Madmimi, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Website Updates – Discussion of usefulness of apps for info and responses. Madmimi is needed for eblasts/possible newsletter. Pros and cons of Facebook being run someone out of state. A local person may have more access to local news.

Scott can use Madmimi. Prefers being a technical backup. Discussed hiring a parttime coordinating secretary for 2 months. Paid advertising could help fund. We need more frequent, local content posting.

Twitter – not a huge presence in the VT scene. Younger people may prefer Snapchat and Instagram.

Whoever manages the accounts needs to get the content everywhere.

Motion to eliminate Snapchat. Motion seconded and approved. Mary will delete Snapchat. Will keep Madmimi, Facebook, website, and Instagram (predominantly photos).

Campaign Season Planning:

Fundraising – Discussion of sending out another mailer, possibly a postcard. It should have a QR code for people to scan and donate. Discussion of scanning checks for mobile deposits. This would need to be discussed with Scott. Fewer Act Blue donations this year.

The VDP has an ambassador's program. People are assigned to county committees. They will also raise money for the VDP. Mary will get info from tonight's ambassador's meeting. We need an independent way to raise funds. One of the reasons for the high 2020 balance was the Women's Brunch.

New Business:

Meeting minutes – Carol sends draft minutes of the general and executive committee meetings to the executive committee. In the past, the Corresponding Secretary posted approved minutes to the website. Carol can continue taking meeting minutes, but is unable to take on posting them to the website or sending them out to general membership. An email blast could direct people to the website for minutes. Agreed to include Will Notte, Mary Howard, Cheryl Hooker, and Stephanie Jerome when sending out draft minutes of the county meeting.

Executive Committee - Annie Stratton, 3rd alternative has resigned. Discussion of whether we need a 3rd alternative to the VDP. Josh is a delegate and Mary M. is the other. Barbara is the 1st alternate and Carol as the 2nd alternate. Motion to keep 4 delegates and not replace the 3rd alternate. Motion seconded and approved.

Corresponding Secretary – There is a vacancy. Do we want to hire someone to cover for a few months? Discussion of duties and role. Discussed possible publicity person, posting on social media, responding to questions and emails. Mary has a contact who has done some of this. Discussed the value of having a local person. Possibly a Castleton extern could do our social media. Discussed reaching out to Castleton contacts. Mary currently answers emails. We will work together on a draft of the responsibilities. Carol will get the role description from our bylaws to Eugenia. Eugenia will draft the document.

Campaign – There was a meeting about the coordinated campaign. The VDP provides certain benefits. Mary feels we will get headquarters and an organizer. They will need housing. They will have transportation. We need to get started in 2 weeks. Mary asked for are any local suggestions for the organizer position.

Headquarters – Mary updated us on the search for an office space. The space would be for all the candidates. We need a space with windows, parking, downtown preferred. Josh offered to share if he secures an office. Mary recommended using the headquarters space.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright,

Recording Secretary