

Rutland County Democrats Executive Committee

Monday, December 5, 2022, 6:35 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.

Zoom

Present: Mary Mellow, Scott Garren, Carol Wright, Eugenia Cooke, Diane Alberts, Barbara Noyes-Pulling, Cheryl Hooker (guest)

Not Present: Josh Ferguson, Anna Tadio (Board of Alderman Meeting)

Welcome: Chair Mary Mellow called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Secretary's Report: The draft minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting were sent out to the committee prior to the meeting. Motion to accept the minutes made by Scott and seconded by Eugenia. September minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Scott reported a balance of just over \$3,000, which is reasonably healthy for the end of an election cycle. Expenses have included contributions to candidates. Otherwise, nominal spending. Mary will submit the expenses for headquarters. Should be less than \$500. Thank you notes received from several candidates. Diane moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Barbara. Report accepted.

Old Business

Campaign Recap - Scott and Mary discussed the Mad Mimi email system, which no longer serves our needs for outreach to members. Scott sent a prior email regarding some options.

Issues include cost of services (Mad Mimi is free), limits on number of contacts, and image limits. We have about 520 contacts on our list. We need to generate income. Lately our email blasts are in the form of images. We come up against the Mad Mimi image limits. One solution would be \$12 a month for the next level up. Scott has looked around at other services. Discussion of other services to manage email lists. None of the vendors are at the free level (500 contacts). Some vendors, such as Zoho, also post on social media. One announcement could go on several platforms.

Contact List - The list exists as an Excel spreadsheet and a Google doc and is shared with several people. Coordinating data is a challenge. Eugenia does some updates. She has a master list (addresses/phone/email) for Rutland County. We may have close to 600 names. Discussion of sorting info. Eugenia has sorted the list by towns. Could town chair (if there is one) do updates? Mary and Eugenia will work on the list. Scott suggests only one list—emails, phone number, volunteer work, donations, etc.

Mary and Eugenia will start with the present list and look at how to add the other data. Limited people should do editing. Scott and Eugenia will look at the Zoho product. We would need someone to be an outreach person to create the content. Barbara suggests looking at some services. She offered to reach out to the town chairs for updated information. Diane offered to help in any way.

Headquarters, VDP Organizer, Phone Banks, Canvassing:

Coordinated Campaign – Discussion of what worked well and what didn't. Steve was not available initially. The office was closed several times. Could use more help with coordinated campaign. Carol

discussed problems with receiving miniVAN updates of voting status prior to inputting all data. Diane signed up for phone banking and canvassing but wasn't contacted.

Upcoming Local Elections – Discussion of supporting local candidates. Rutland City will have several candidate openings on the Board of Aldermen, for Mayor, and possibly school board. Mary will talk to Anne Lezak about VDP training sessions for candidates. Discussion of subcommittees to help get more organized (fundraising/publicity/etc.).

New Business

Emerge VT is doing a training on Saturday, January 14th in Brandon from 1-5:00 p.m. The training is for women. Mary has signed-up to see what they advise. Scott suggested paying the training cost of \$35 if people are interested in running for local office and want to submit a brief summary of their ideas.

Discussion of how to get the training information out. Ideas included newspaper, town chairs, email, and Front Porch Forum. We would limit the offer to 10. Cheryl has access to 19 towns and she could put it out if she has a blurb. Mary and Diane will work on this and Cheryl will be kept in the loop.

School Board – Barbara asked about county school boards. Rutland Forward may be working on city school boards in addition to other campaigns. Carol will contact Anna and report back.

General Meeting – Will meet in January. Discussion of Ex. Com meetings. Eugenia suggested meeting 30 – 40 min. before or after the county meeting, due to the scheduling challenges.

In the past we've meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. We will schedule our general meeting for Monday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Dianne suggested a brief Ex. Com. meeting after the general meeting. Discussed meeting by Zoom in the winter.

Agenda ideas for January full meeting - Ideas included asking for tech and other help from volunteers, talking about the local elections, ideas to increase our visibility. We need to get people out for social events and fundraising.

Town Meeting Day Elections, March 7, 2023 - Discussed having a panel of candidates on PEG TV. Another idea would be a blog for candidates to talk about their experiences. Mary will check with Anna to see if she is continuing as Chair of Rutland City Dems. Mary discussed the importance of raising our profile in the county.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary