

## **Rutland County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting**

**July 11, 2022, 7:10 p.m. – 8:15**

### **Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mary Mellow, Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Anna Tadio, Carol Wright, Barbara Noyes Pulling, Scott Garren

Not Present: Josh Ferguson, Eugenia Cooke, (Annie Delyth-Stratton has stepped down)

Welcome - Mary Mellow called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Secretary's Report – The draft minutes from the Executive Committee meetings of May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> were sent out prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Scott reported \$6,356.00 in the bank. Normally, the bare minimum to candidates is about \$3,600. That would leave about \$3,000 for discretionary. We need to keep about \$1,000 in the bank. There isn't a lot to support some of our work.

Scott clarified that the current bank balance includes the fundraising amount. Mary asked if we could keep that amount separate.

### **Old Business:**

JP Follow-Up Contacts – Mary had sent the committee a list of Rutland Co. districts, including new districts, and whether they are organized or not. The document was screen shared.

We have a number of towns not yet organized. Chairs are listed, if available. We need to make courtesy calls to chairs. Towns not organized need to be called and asked to try to find 3 people, required to organize. We reviewed the list and signed up for towns.

Anna is working on Rutland City. Discussion of whether we just call contacts in towns which aren't organized. Existing chairs could be emailed, or one person could call all the existing chairs.

Anna made a motion that the list be divided up by unorganized towns to support them in getting nominations for JP. Discussion of whether the list is accurate. Some of the paperwork might not be complete, so they might not be recognized as organized.

Mary is taking several towns. Discussion of whether towns could get a full committee of 3 people by August 12. We could prioritize some of the larger towns. Discussion of contact people in towns.

Committee members agreed to contact the following towns:

- Poultney – Mary
- Mendon – Anna
- Hubbardton – Mary Droege has names in Hubbardton, Mary M. will get in touch with her.
- Wallingford – Heather
- West Rutland – Mary
- Proctor – needs organizing – contact: Kathy Milillo – Mary
- Benson/Westhaven
- Middletown Springs – contact: Nora Rubenstein

- Pawlet – Barbara
- Danby – Carol will call Hope Blucher. Need to know if the paperwork was filed and was it successful.
- Middletown Springs – Scott – There is a previous chair

Eugenia's master list may have contacts for unorganized towns. Mary will get phone numbers to us. Ask them to file by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Every town has a different number assigned by the state, based on the population.

Anna's motion was seconded by Barbara. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

VDP Platform Committee, August 20, via Zoom –

Mary discussed the final meeting of the platform committee. We should send 4 delegates to the meeting. Anna is planning to attend, Barbara asked about making comments. She should have received a document for making comments.

Picnic on Saturday. Mary will call Josh. Several committee members are planning to attend.

Need for Write-In Candidates in Rutland 4 and Rutland 5 – Cheryl Hooker told Mary there is still a need for candidates. She asked if we have any recommendations. 4-1 used to belong to Peter Fagan, 5 used to belong to Copoli. If anyone has ideas, please call Cheryl.

Write-In Campaign – Josh will be a write-in (county-wide) for state senate. We will design a postcard with information on who to write in. We need to get the word out right now. Early balloting has begun. We can do an email campaign to alert voters of the candidates.

Mary will talk to City Hall. She suggests that we get the names of the voters in those two wards and email the voters. Discussion of the state sharing information to get voters to the correct polling place. How far along is the City Clerk's office?

Vermont State Fair – Mary has a contract from the fair. The fee is \$200 plus \$20 for electrical service. The space includes free passes and parking. We have been in the President's building in the past. This time it may be the VT Building. The VDP will provide insurance. There will be a refund of something if things go well. Eugenia, Carol and Anna had expressed interest in the fair. No need to be present all day long. It opens at 11:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 p.m. The booth can be left unattended for short periods (afternoon maybe). We need candidate signs, literature, materials, voting forms and material (Mary has requested voting materials). Anna has contacted Cheryl Hooker and she will host our signs. Cheryl will keep track of signs going in and out.

Discussion of the days and volunteer shifts required. The fair opens with a short Tuesday evening. On a full day, we should be present from 11-2:00, off 2-4:00, and present from 4-6:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. (short evening). Full days would be W/Th/F/Saturday. Scott was a volunteer a few years ago. Little traffic when he was there. Discussion of pros and cons of having a presence. We could invite candidates.

Anna made a motion to sign the contract for the booth at the VT State Fair. Motion seconded by Scott. No abstentions. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rutland City Friday Night Live – Next Friday is the first date. Decided to pass for this year.

**New Business:**

Extend Fundraising Campaign – Scott feels people are angry and frustrated due to the radical right’s efforts to take away our rights. A few seats would have made a difference. We can make a real difference here in Rutland Co. He recommends a broader fundraising list. There is a lot we could do with additional funds.

The goal would be to get a letter out in early September. Discussion about using a graphic designer. Discussion about using a more pointed tone. Carol said there are about 100 letters left which haven’t gone out. Scott will put together a firmer proposal of his ideas. Mary suggested a possible VDP template for us to use.

CDC Future Meeting Dates – Mary recommended meeting more often the next few months. At least monthly Executive Committee meetings. August 8<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting (county). Discussion of when to add an Executive Committee meeting for August. Sept. 12 would be our next scheduled Executive Com. Meeting. Discussion of possible agenda. Mary requested ideas for next month’s meeting.

Discussion of in-person meetings. Carol requested recommending masks for in-person meetings. We agreed to have an in-person county meeting and a Zoom meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> for the Executive Committee.

Calendar/Announcements –

- July 1<sup>st</sup> - VDP State Committee
- August 9<sup>th</sup> - Primary Elections
- August 12<sup>th</sup> - JP Filing Deadline
- August 16-20<sup>th</sup> - Vermont State Fair
- August 20<sup>th</sup> - VDP Platform Committee by Zoom -

**Meeting Adjourned:** Anna made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary