

Rutland County Democrats Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:05 – 8:20 p.m.

Rutland County Democrats Headquarters

56 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT

Welcome: 7:05 – Chair Mary Mellow welcomed those attending. Introductions were made. Executive Committee members present: Mary Mellow, Carol Wright, Eugenia Cooke, Josh Ferguson, and Scott Garren.

Report from the Secretary: Deferred until next meeting.

Report from the Treasurer: Scott discussed the recent donations, making a balance of \$6,904.55. There were few expenses, except for the office (petty cash/incidentals). VDP has agreed to pay for our headquarters this year, plus the salary and benefits for Steve Craffey, our local organizer for Rutland/Bennington Counties.

New Business:

Steve Craffey, VDP Organizer (by phone): Steve has been working with our candidates on canvassing and answering their questions. His main job is to get Democrats elected. We need to do as much canvassing as possible and collect data for a strong Presidential campaign. Steve can do trainings, and help candidates with their needs, except for social media. Steve has worked on campaigns for 10 years, with many state and local candidates.

There will be canvassing this weekend and a link with information will go out as soon as possible. Discussion about canvassing strategy. He recommends keeping it as local as possible.

Discussion of phone banking. He has the auto dialer set up. It works well for local areas if 3-5 people do phone banking once or twice a week. Anyone can come to the office on Sunday. Steve has phone bank lists. It can be done at home, after a short training with Steve. Mary will pass along Steve's contact information. Steve can reach out to anyone who wants to get involved, if they email him.

Campaign Headquarters Scheduling – Discussion of reaching out to town chairs for volunteers.

County Candidate Donations – Scott discussed our historic amount of donations: \$500 for senate, \$250 for house and \$50 for partial towns. Mary recommended boosting the partial town donations to \$100. Scott moved to donate the money as specified with an increase to \$100 from \$50 for Rutland County partial towns. Closer to election day, if we have extra money, we can reach out to candidates and offer more. Motion seconded. Motion approved. Scott will get checks out shortly.

Discussion of combining candidate campaigns as much as possible, Honk and Waves, and polling place ordinances. Mary will send us contact information of candidates.

Election of VDP Alternative Delegate #3 – We need to think about someone who might serve in this position. Alternates and delegates need to attend VDP meetings. Meetings are every other month. Continuing Zoom might be an option in the future. Will discuss at a future meeting.

Old Business:

Announcements: Steve Howard has proposed an event honoring Cheryl Hooker with fundraising for the senate candidates. Steve has spoken to Cheryl. Discussion. Mary will ask Steve to go ahead.

Stephanie Jerome has offered to do a meet and greet for the 3 senate candidates for her area (Brandon).

Josh plans an office party on Center Street. He will invite the senate candidates. This will be in early October. Josh has put out a policy statement on herbicide application in Lake Bomoseen. It was signed by local candidates. He has received an endorsement from the VT Conservation Voters.

Question about media lists. Mary has a list which she will edit and share. Discussion of candidate ads, timing, including other senate candidates.

Other:

Discussion of fundraising.

Discussion of Facebook page. We need to look for someone to post for us. Eugenia will write up job description for Corresponding Secretary. Discussion about hiring a firm. Mary has a recommendation for a firm in Colorado. She will get a proposal.

Adjournment: Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary