

## **Rutland County Democrats Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 7:15 – 8:10 p.m.**

### **Godnick Adult Center**

The Rutland County Democrats Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Mellow at 7:15. Mary welcomed all and introduced Eugenia Cooke, Assistant Treasurer and Carol Wright, Recording Secretary.

**Report from the Secretary:** Copies of the draft minutes of the June 15 meeting were reviewed. Discussion of whether to send draft minutes out electronically prior to meeting. Motion to accept June minutes. Motion seconded. Minutes approved.

**Report from the Treasurer:** Scott Garren unable to attend. Eugenia Clarke discussed Treasurer's report. Copies available. Current balance is \$6,478.05. Income of \$807.07. Expenses of \$325.00, including the Godnick Center meeting room and \$220.00 for a booth at the VT State Fair. The booth has been cancelled and we will receive a refund. Discussion of Scott's draft fundraising letter and the need to increase our balance, in order to support Rutland County candidates.

#### **Old Business:**

**VT State Fair:** Dave Potter discussed his impressions of the fair. He was in the Sugar House. Seemed a moderate number of people. Discussion of the pros and cons of having a booth at the fair. It was helpful in the past as a link for people running for state office who were visiting. We no longer need to register people to vote at the fair and we may not have much of an impact.

**Campaign Headquarters:** Mary has had encouragement from the Vermont Democratic Party (VDP). She has looked at a few places. There is a possible place on Center Street. Scott and Mary will talk with VDP staff about the space, funding, and support.

**Volunteers:** Mary reminded us of volunteer opportunities and provided a signup list. She has a list of independent papers (such as Castleton and Manchester) that accept letters to the editor. Discussion of other volunteer activities:

**Event Planning:** VDP would like to have an event for RC senators. We can go forward once the count is finished.

**Fundraising:** We need to raise more money. Scott has drafted a fundraising letter (copies provided). Carol discussed Scott's suggestion about expanding the list of people who receive the letter. Discussion of fundraising.

**VAN Voter Files:** Computer talent is needed. Kate Lapp, VDP can help with VAN. She is IT for VDP. Mary Droege had several questions about VAN.

**Zoom Availability:** We need someone who can help with IT. Mary M. will check into whether town committees can use the Zoom account.

#### **New Business:**

**Candidate Summary:** Mary D. won her primary. David Potter, Ken Fredette, and Bridgette Remington should be on the ballot. Still waiting for write-in candidate results.

Middletown Springs candidate decided to withdraw. The district towns are meeting on Sunday to nominate a replacement, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, to be the designated candidate. We should have the candidate info for November elections by next Monday. Annie Stratton has withdrawn as VDP alternate on our Executive Committee.

**Social Media:** Discussion of pros and cons of various social media. Facebook and website are important. Front Porch Forum works well in small towns. Posts can be shared with other towns. There are limited free posts/month (5?). Some platforms, such as Instagram, are more popular with young people.

**Announcements:** Mary Droege's Launch Party Friday, Friday, August 19, Crystal Beach, Castleton. Democrat candidates and others are welcome.

**Future meeting dates:** Mary recommends monthly meetings during campaign season. Agreed to meet Tuesday, 9/13. Mary will look for space. Need to start earlier if we meet at the library. More time in October will be spent at campaign headquarters.

**Other:** Pat discussed concerns about getting replies to questions sent to the national committee. Mary recommended talking to Mary Sullivan at the VDP for support.

Mary Droege asked to borrow the PA system for her launch party. Mary M. will get it to her by Friday. Discussion of major Democratic issues in Castleton.

**Adjournment:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary