

Rutland County Democrats Committee Meeting

July 10, 2023, 6:35 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Welcome – Chair Mary Mellow welcomed all.

Quorum Count – 10 (includes late arrivals)/quorum met.

Secretary's Report – The minutes from the RCDC May meeting were sent out in advance of the meeting. Delayed approval until arrival of quorum. After arrival of quorum, motion to accept minutes by Barbara Noyes-Pulling. Motion seconded by Eugenia Cooke. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Eugenia discussed the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$5,226.96. This includes Income of \$2,508.00. \$2,415.00 in contributions and \$93.00 from Sunshine fund transfer. There are some donations which have not yet been recorded. Mary met with Scott Garren recently regarding a proposed budget. Scott, Eugenia, and Mary will make a proposed budget for 2023-25.

Question about towns having a checking account. Discussion. In the past they were told not to collect funds, due to filing reports and competing with the county.

Old Business:

RCDC Website – Barbara reports that our website is in worse shape. She has an offer from Andrew Jones, SOJU Web Development, in Rutland to fix the home page, calendar, and broken links for free. He would like to be considered for future work. Scott hasn't heard from his computer contact or received a proposal.

Discussion or website work. Barbara will ask about a financial structure for future work. Kathy Hall will check with someone she knows who may be able to help with calendar updates.

July 4th Parade Reports – Carol Wright and Eugenia reported that the Castleton Parade was small, positive, and there was no Republican representation.

Brandon – Stephanie Jerome reported the parade was fun, with great participation.

Poultney - Alex Hillard discussed the absence of a Democrat presence in the parade. A lot of Republicans were there. Discussion of parade presence. Sometimes candidates create participation. Carol and Robin Chesnut-Tangerman had contacted Mary Jo and offered to participate.

Rutland FNL Date – July 21 – Diane Alberts – We have a booth. Cheryl Hooker and Jan Ryan have volunteered. Diane asked for a couple of more people to move around. Discussion of having some Young Dems at a later date. Mary suggested 2-hour shifts. Kathy Hall will try to be there.

Results of Town Chairs Phone Calls – Josh Ferguson and Diane Alberts reached out to some of our towns regarding reorganization. They discussed the results of their contacts. Pawlet is the only town with a clear plan of succession. Fair Haven may dissolve. Need more follow-up with Tinmouth.

Josh discussed the second objective to create a reorg map as a visual representation to show succession plans, etc.

New Business:

Town Reorganizations – September 11-15 – Must be done in Sept. from 10th – 30th. In the past, calls to the chairs have been divided up so we can confirm whether they will run again and what day they will choose for their event. Mary would like them all to meet during the week of 9/10. In the past, we have run an ad in the Herald to get the word out.

Discussion of calling the towns. They might need help getting the forms from the state, etc. Nora isn't getting info from the VDP. We need to organize several towns. Diane and Kathy both suggested people they could contact who might be willing to help.

Budget Plan for 2023-25 – We have plans for presenting a plan through the election cycle. Fundraising events TBD.

Vermont State Fair – August 15-19 – Mary would like to have a presence. Will have on the agenda for 2024.

Social Event(s) – Will be in the budget plan for next year. Maybe something for the fall to bring in people from Proctor/Mendon. Eugenia discussed having a plan for what we want to do. We have had brunches and a harvest pot luck dinner at Godnick. Discussion of having a social event that isn't fundraising, just to get together. Kathy Hall could help organize it. She can make phone calls. Pittsford Rec has a covered place. We could do a pot luck, maybe BYOB. It could be outdoors. We had a good speaker at Godnick Center.

Josh—Mary Droege has suggested an event in Castleton.

Dates to Remember:

Young Dems have an event at Roots on 8/5 at 5:00.

September 11-15—Town Reorg.

County Reorganization – October 10 or 11 – There are some problems with people attending on Mon. Nights. If the legislature isn't in session, we could do any day of the week.

November 18 - VDP State Reorganization

Discussion of Saturday's VDP meeting and the proposed bylaws.

Motion to Adjourn made by Eugenia and seconded by Josh. Adjourned at 7:45

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary