

**MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

Present: Jan Bowers, Dick Bowers, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, David Eldredge, Jeff Hadley, Peter Hughes, Linda Hughes, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Deborah Waugh and Robert Waugh.

Guests: Louis Urbano and Sally Urbano

- 1) **Call To Order** – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. He proceeded to welcome guests Louis and Sally Urbano. He recognized Sally Urbano for recently registering as a Republican.
- 2) **Minutes** – The minutes, which were previously e-mailed, were distributed for review. Eric Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015, which was seconded by Deborah Waugh. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report** – Mary Ann Pina announced that she filed her year-end report. There was a beginning balance of \$1,041.17. With \$.04 earned in interest and \$120 received from voluntary member contributions, the ending balance is \$1,161.21. Jan Bowers made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Linda Hughes. There was no discussion and the report was approved unanimously.
- 4) **Executive Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Chair** – Chairman Hughes announced there were two Selectman seats available in the upcoming election vacated by Ed McManus and Larry Ballentine. This presents a huge opportunity for our party and he encouraged the membership to consider running or come up with candidates. He suggested that the best way to influence is to get in the game. There is also an opportunity to run for a School Committee position for anyone interested. The last day to take out nomination papers is Friday, March 27th. Only 50 signatures are required and there is no cost.
 - b. **Vice Chair** – Eric Carroll updated the members on his efforts with the HRTC web site. He was requested by Chairman Hughes to show a demonstration of the site at our next meeting in March.
- 5) **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Fundraising** – Dick Bowers has been keeping it touch with Fran Meany regarding a fundraising event. Their hope is to get Governor Charlie Baker to attend the event with the joint participation of the Lower Cape RTCs along with family and friends to join in. If Charlie is not available, it is hoped that Karen Polito may be able to attend.

6) Old Business:

- a. **HRTC Photos** – At the end of the meeting, photos will be taken for the HRTC web site.
- b. **Plans for 2015** – Other than the Charlie Baker fundraiser, Chairman Hughes stated that once we know which candidates are running in the upcoming local elections, we will get organized. A stand-out at polls with signs is particularly effective. Matt Hart is considering a run for office and has taken out nomination papers for Selectman. Matt Hart is the chairman of the waterways committee and former member of the planning board.

7) New Business:

a. **New Members** – Chairman Hughes turned the meeting over to Dick Bowers. Dick made a motion to nominate Louis and Sally Urbano as two new Regular Members to the Harwich RTC. They both accepted the nomination. Eric Carroll seconded the nomination. Chairman Hughes praised them for the continued involvement and participation in many town committee meetings. He commented that we need more people like them. All voted in favor of their election.

Dick Bowers then made another motion to nominate Leo Cakounes as a new Regular Member to the Harwich RTC. Although not present, Leo previously expressed his interest. Bob Waugh seconded the nomination. Chairman Hughes spoke highly about Leo and noted that he has been very active in his new duties as County Commissioner. All voted in favor of his election.

8) Political Updates:

a. **What's in the News** – Chairman Hughes updated the financial status of the Monomoy Regional School District, who is seeking an additional \$800K to support their budget. He advised that everyone pay attention to the details and make their own decisions on this issue.

There is also a petition article circulating to ban plastic bags to which the members shared comments.

Chairman Hughes also addressed the recent resignations of some town officials.

Dick Bowers raised the issue of whether we should approach inactive HRTC members to see if they would prefer being designated as Associate Members. Chairman Hughes agreed to assist Dick with preparing a letter for this purpose. However, he advised that we first find new candidates who would be interested in joining the HRTC to fill these potential vacancies.

Chairman Hughes also shared that some members of the Brewster RTC might be interested in attending our meetings in Harwich.

- 9) Next Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM, at which time photos were taken for the web site. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, 2015 at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Pat Switchenko, Secretary
Harwich Republican Town Committee**