

**MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
APRIL 17, 2014**

Present: Dick Bowers, Jan Bowers, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, David Eldredge, Jeff Hadley, Peter Hughes, Linda Hughes, Louise Marahrens, Paul Marahrens, Mary Ann Pina and Pat Switchenko.

Guests:

Michelle DeSilva, Cape Cod Cares for the Troops

- 1) **Call To Order** – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Chairman Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2) **Minutes** – The minutes, which were previously e-mailed, were distributed for review. Louise Marahrens made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2014, which was seconded by Jan Bowers. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

- 3) **Executive Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Chair** – Chairman Hughes reminded the membership about the Annual Town meeting on May 5th and Election on May 20th, which were to be discussed further later in the meeting.

 - b. **Vice Chair** – Jeff Hadley had no updates.

 - c. **Secretary** – Pat Switchenko had no updates.

 - d. **Treasurer** – Mary Ann Pina presented that the beginning balance was \$2,946.47. There were receipts of \$1635.00 (Wine Tasting Fundraiser) and expenses of \$474.41 (wine tasting food and wine). The ending balance was \$4,107.06.

- 4) **Cape Cod Cares for the Troops** – Guest Michelle DeSilva described the many accomplishments of this non-profit organization founded to honor our troops for their service and dedication to our country. Over 18,000 care packages have been shipped to our deployed troops. In addition, they are doing a lot to support returning soldiers and veterans. Michelle announced the upcoming 10th Annual Troops in the Spotlight Event, scheduled May 25th – 26th at K-Mart Plaza in Hyannis. During this event, they will hold a donation drive to collect items for care packages and monetary donations to help with the cost of shipping. Michelle encouraged people to participate.

Chairman Hughes asked the committee if they would consider a \$250 donation to this organization, and also reminded people that they could contribute individually as well. Paul Marahrens made a motion that the Harwich Republican Town Committee makes a \$250 donation to Cape Cod Cares for the Troops. The motion was seconded by Jan Bowers, and

all voted in favor. It was also suggested that Michelle reach out to other Republican Town Committees as well as the State. A photo was taken which Michelle will post on their web site.

5) Sub-Committee Reports:

a. Fundraising Committee – Dick Bowers is thinking about another fundraiser.

b. Publicity Committee – Pat Switchenko offered to get more involved.

c. Program Committee – Dot Hemmings-Bassett previously offered to assist when she returns in May. There is a need to invite more candidates to attend our meetings.

6) Old Business:

a. 'Get Out the Vote' – Ben Keilman demonstrated technology at the Wine Tasting Fundraiser. There is a phone app which will be useful and Chairman Hughes asked if Eric Carroll could demonstrate the app (Pinpoint) at the next meeting. Eric also had volunteered to be a Captain for Precinct 1. Anyone else interested is advised to contact Dean.

b. Web Site Evaluation – Eric Carroll has been working with Rick Gleason on site administration issues. Eric now has instructions on how to link Face book to the web site. Once link is established, Gayle Carroll offered to view the Face book page and determine if it is something she can keep updated. It was agreed that we should keep it simple for ease of maintenance. Chairman Hughes requested that the members look at the web site in the next 30 days and provide feedback at the next meeting.

c. Massachusetts State Convention Feedback – Although most shared that the experience as a delegate was worthwhile, there was some confusion pertaining to the outcome with Mark Fisher. David Eldredge questioned the concept of a 'blank' vote. Eric Carroll also commented that for such a technically advanced event, it was surprising that the vote count was done manually from people with clipboards.

d. Wine Tasting Social Feedback – The fundraiser at First Crush Winery was very successful. Chairman Hughes thanked everyone for their participation, especially Dick Bowers for organizing the event and Gayle Carroll for coordinating the food. It was noted that most candidates stayed through the entire event. Since there was considerable standing during the politicians' speeches, Paul Marahrens suggested that we consider folding chairs in future events to give attendees the option to sit.

7) New Business – Chairman Hughes asked for 2 – 3 volunteers to serve on a team to determine how to best spend the \$3800 or so in our account in the upcoming elections. Both Paul Marahrens and Eric Carroll volunteered; it was suggested that Dean Knight would also be a good team member.

8) Political Updates – Chairman Hughes announced that there were no contested races in the Harwich election. He also discussed the Town Meeting starting on May 5th, which could extend into the following two nights. There are 75 Articles as well as 12 Special Town Meeting Articles.

Of particular interest is the Monomoy Regional School District budget.

David Eldredge also brought up the case of Justine Pelletier where there are concerns about the government overruling parents in a child's health care. More information can be found on www.justiceforjustina.com.

- 9) Conclusion** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting is re-scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7 PM (to avoid a conflict with Toast of Harwich on May 15th).

Respectfully Submitted,

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