

**MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

Present: Jan Bowers, Dick Bowers, Leo Cakounes, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, John Flores, Jeff Hadley, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Elizabeth Kelsey, Mike Kelsey, Fran Manzelli, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Lou Urbano, Sally Urbano and Deborah Waugh

- 1) Call To Order** –Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed our State Representative Fran Manzelli and John Flores, Candidate for State Senator.
- 2) Minutes** – The minutes were previously e-mailed and distributed. Deborah Waugh made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2017, which was seconded by Gayle Carroll. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3) Treasurer’s Report** – Mary Ann Pina updated the committee with the finances. The balance was \$1,619.26, which included \$.21 in interest. And then she received a check for \$534 as a private donation from Linda Hughes and Gayle Carroll from the Yard Sale. The ending balance is \$2153.26. Pat Switchenko made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. It was seconded by Linda Hughes and all voted in favor.
- 4) Old Business:**
 - a). Updates on HRTC web site and Facebook** – Gayle Carroll shared that she keeps Facebook updated day-by-day. There are many events coming up, which she posts when she receives the information.
 - b) U. S. Senate Candidate Forums** - Originally, a joint meeting with the Harwich and Brewster RTCs was proposed with Dr. Shiva at Captain’s Golf course on September 22nd. Now, five Republican candidates are opposing Elizabeth Warren in the race for U.S. Senator. The original joint meeting has been postponed, but there will still be another event in Brewster. We expect to schedule a forum with all candidates next January or February. It is important for all of us to understand positions.
- 5) New Business:**
 - a) Harwich Voter Database** – Lou Urbano addressed the group about voter database information he secured from the Town Clerk. He was in receipt of a 33 page list of approximately 1800 registered Republicans. He also has a list of those who attended Town Meetings in the last two years. He was interested in using this information to expand our network and help Republicans become more knowledgeable. Beth Kelsey did an outreach in Brewster and could assist. She did a mailing and recognized that it is challenging to get email addresses. The following people volunteered to help Lou in his efforts: Eric Carroll, Gayle Carroll, Beth Kelsey, Jeff Hadley and Sally Urbano.
 - b) Harwich RTC Vacancy** – One of our Regular Harwich RTC members, Arthur Palleschi, sadly passed away recently and he was recognized for his accomplishments.

Chairman Hughes asked that we think about potential candidates for this open position, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 6) **Leo Cakounes** - Leo announced his plans for re-election in 2018 as County Commissioner. The Harwich RTC is the first RTC that he has addressed in this campaign. Of the three County Commissioners, his seat is the only one up for re-election. It is a Cape-wide election (Bourne through Provincetown). He asked that we aren't complacent and needs our help, whether holding signs, inviting him to speak to other civic organizations or spreading the word about supporting him to friends. He explained the Republican Party is fractured but we need to work together as a party.

He has completed almost 3 years in office so far. He is proud that that he has already fulfilled every campaign promise that he made. He described his many accomplishments, particularly balancing the budget without free cash. Chairman Hughes commended Leo by saying that he never saw a County Commissioner work as hard as he does. Leo has kick-offs planned in 2017 in Wellfleet, Barnstable and Sandwich/Falmouth. Eric Carroll once again agreed to support Leo's campaign and Chairman Hughes asked that anyone willing to help Leo contact Eric.

- 7) **John Flores** – The current Town Councilor of Barnstable, John Flores, announced that he is interested in running for State Senator in 2018. John presently lives in Cummaquid, but is 4th generation Provincetown. He is a retired school superintendent and has run businesses and non-profit organizations in his past. He will make a formal announcement on November 1st followed by a fundraiser in November 9th. He feels he is the opposite of the current State Senator, Julian Cyr. He is focused on the opioid crises, taxation, elderly, traditional values and less government. He plans to knock on doors and welcomed help from all. With his background and education, he feels he can do it and Fran Manzelli echoed that he can win.

- 8) **Political Updates:** Fran Manzelli provided state updates, including the plan for the Convention in Worcester on April 28, 2018. Chairman Hughes discussed the upcoming vote on October 24, 2017 for Cape Cod Tech. The two questions (moving forward with the school and how to fund it) will be on two separate ballots so voters will need to sign in twice. He stressed the importance of voting.

Next Meeting – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 7 PM.

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