

**MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2019**

Present: Jan Bowers, Dick Bowers, Eric Carroll, Gayle Carroll, David Eldredge, Jeff Hadley, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey, Mike Kelsey, Fran Manzelli, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Lou Urbano, Sally Urbano, Deborah Waugh and Robert Waugh.

Guest: Maureen Healey, Dolores Sherry and Tom Sherry

- 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 members back who recently traveled south. He also welcomed and recognized our guest Maureen Healey, who attended our last meeting in January and even assumed an assignment. Chairman Hughes then proceeded to introduce guest Tom Sherry, a member of the Harwich Finance Committee, who was running again for re-election as a Harwich Selectman.
- 2) **Tom Sherry** – Chairman Hughes began by asking Tom Sherry how we could help with his campaign and Tom responded by thanking us. Tom opened up by saying how he and his wife Dolores chose to move to Harwich as his daughter noticed how happy it made them to be here. In his current campaign in running for Harwich Selectman, his big issues were concerns about spending and bills not paid, particularly the new tech high school. He noted the increase in wastewater budget. When Jeff Hadley inquired how we could assist, Tom asked if we could spread the word and post signs. He invited us to his “Meet & Greet” at his home on March 31st, and Pat offered to send the invitation to the membership and Gayle Carroll agreed to post it in Facebook. Tom handed out flyers and shared his email address: TomSherry4Harwich@gmail.com. Beth Kelsey asked about his social media accounts and Linda Hughes stressed how important a Facebook account is to a campaign. Tom then thanked the Harwich RTC for their time and support.
- 3) **Minutes** – Minutes had previously been issued to the committee for the meeting on January 17, 2018 by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Chairman Hughes noted that the February meeting has been cancelled; with the anticipated absence we would not have attained a quorum. Gayle Carroll made a motion to accept the January minutes which was seconded by Deborah Waugh. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all
- 4) **Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina announced that the beginning balance in our account was \$1,038.54. There were donations totaling \$125 and interest of \$.09. The ending balance was \$1,163.63. Pat Switchenko made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Linda Hughes. There was no further discussion and it was approved by all. Chairman Hughes reminded everyone that the annual voluntary donations are \$20 for members/associates and \$30 for family memberships.
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) **Harwich Voter Database and Letter** – Sally Urbano distributed her draft letter for comment which is intended for the email addresses in the database. It was agreed that at least one more email should be sent prior to Town Meeting, perhaps including the link to the warrant. (Pat has since confirmed that there are 232 emails addresses in the database. She has since sent the Municipal Finance Session announcement as well as the past letter to the email distribution list). Chairman Hughes also suggested that pie charts be included in the letters, as they can be an effective tool in helping readers with visualizing the numbers.
 - b) **Website and Facebook** – The website has been updated by Jeremy Gingras with both the minutes (thru year end 2018) and calendar. Fran Manzelli had provided a list of updated representatives which to date has not been revised on the website. Gayle Carroll continues her excellent job of updating our Facebook page frequently.
- 6) **New Business:**
 - a) **Annual CCRC Meeting** – Fran Manzelli announced that the annual meeting will be Sunday, June 2nd at 1 PM at the Riverway. Governor Baker will be the guest speaker and Jim Lyons, the new State Party Chair, is expected to attend. The meeting will include the election of officers. From Harwich, both Chairman Hughes and Pat Switchenko will be on the ballot, for the Vice President and Treasurer positions, respectively. Chairman Hughes is also co-chair of the scholarship committee, which will be giving out five scholarships to high school seniors on Cape Cod.

Fran handed out a national U. S. Citizenship Exam for the members to take. A high percentage of high school students did not know the answers, indicating a problematic situation within the schools.

Jeff Beatty recently addressed the Cape Cod Women's Republican Club and it was suggested he might be invited to speak at one of our meetings or at a joint meeting with other RTCs.

- b) **Fundraiser** – Chairman Hughes spoke to Frank Puzio about a fundraiser at First Crush Winery. The estimate for the band is \$200. He was looking for volunteers to take on the responsibility. We could hold it in late summer or early fall – possibly with other RTCs.
- c) **Yard Sale** – The Linda & Gayle's Yard Sale is expected to take place in August, although the exact date may not be known until July. Lou Urbano has a new trailer available for picking up items during the first week of July and beyond.
- b) **High School Scholarship** - At the last meeting, both Lou Urbano and Maureen Healey agreed to contact the guidance counselor at Monomoy Regional High School for suggestions how to proceed with a high school scholarship. It was agreed that it would be too late to pursue it this year but could be considered for future years. Maureen shared what she learned about scholarships offered through the Dollars for Scholars program as well as the Cape Cod Foundation. She confirmed that someone from the Harwich RTC would be able to present the scholarship directly. There was further discussion as to whether the scholarship would also be open to students from Cape Cod Tech, if there should be an essay requirement and the amount of the scholarship.

7) **Political Updates:**

- * Chairman Hughes provided updates on the local elections which was followed by discussion on national political news.
- * Beth Kelsey reminded the group about the upcoming 15th Annual Troops in the Spotlight on Memorial Day weekend (5/26 & 5/27). She added that Cape Cod Cares for the Troops recently received a letter of recognition from President Trump.

Next Meeting – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 18th 2019 at 7 PM.

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