

**MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20th, 2020**

Present: Jan Bowers, Eric Carroll, Gayle Carroll, Judy Crocker, David Eldredge, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey (by phone), Fran Manzelli, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Pete Switchenko, Lou Urbano, Sally Urbano, Deborah Waugh and Robert Waugh.

Guests: Adam Lange, Andrea St. Germain, State Representative Will Crocker, Jeff Ansell, Bill Osborn, Audrey Osborn, Randy Pond

- 1) **Call to Order** – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Hughes welcomed all guests. He reminded the committee to vote in the primary on March 3rd at the Harwich Community Center on Oak Street (7AM – 8 PM). The ballot will include Presidential primary, the 30 members of our Harwich Republic Town Committee as well as Republican State Committeeman and Republican State Committeewoman.
- 2) **Guest Speakers** – Chairman Hughes recognized our four guest speakers: Adam Lange, Andrea St. Germain, Judy Crocker and Fran Manzelli. After the speeches were given, he encouraged questions and answers for all.
 - a) **Andrea St. Germain** (Candidate for Cape & Islands State Committeewoman) – Andrea shared her background regarding her family, teaching and serving 10 years on the Dennis -Yarmouth School Committee. She had observed that people were not happy with the decline of the enrollment of the Republicans on Cape Cod. She noted that people were fearful to put signs out for Trump. She encouraged people to “be stronger” and not live in the shadow of the Democrats. She believes that we have leadership on Cape Cod and will ask people if they wish to run for office.
 - b) **Judy Crocker** (Incumbent Cape & Islands State Committeewoman) – Judy has held this position since 2012 and also has chaired her local RTC. Many have endorsed Judy. She saw the need to change and get more people elected. The job is about the state and local issues. She knows how to win races. If we wish to pick up more seats, Judy encouraged the committee to elect her.
 - c) **Adam Lange** (Candidate for Cape & Islands State Committeeman) – Adam is from Brewster and is a retired Operations Director at Boeing. He shared the military ties to his family. He saw that the political landscape has changed a lot and he wants to make changes. He believes we need more younger people and wants to “fight the fight”.
 - d) **Fran Manzelli** (Incumbent Cape & Islands State Committeeman) – Fran has a background in education being a teacher as well as superintendent. He has held the title of State Committeeman for 10 years, during which time he attended hundreds of meeting, fighting for everyone and helping the Republicans on Cape Cod. He has served as President of the Cape Cod Republican Committee – recently offering five \$500 scholarships to high school seniors. As Chair of the Yarmouth RTC, he has rebuilt it to include 35 members. He encouraged the membership to vote for the candidate who has the “compassion, energy and enthusiasm”. Fran concluded by sharing that he loves this party and these people.
- 3) **Minutes** – Minutes had previously been issued to the committee for the meeting on November 21, 2019 by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Lou Urbano made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Mary Ann Pina. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.
- 4) **Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina reported that the current balance is \$2576.42 The opening balance as of November 15, 2019 was \$2609.10 plus interest (over three months) of \$.32, a deposit of \$85 and the expenses of the Post Office Box of \$118. Pat Switchenko made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, which was seconded by Linda Hughes and approved by all.
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) **Harwich Voter Database** – Pat Switchenko reported that our database of email addresses is now 539 people. She offers the recipients an opportunity to opt out of future emails. The latest mailing, sent on January 25th, was a letter from Chairman Hughes encouraging people to vote on March 3rd and provided a link to the absentee ballot. Lou wants to send another email regarding the financials in town. Chairman

Hughes suggested another email blast reminding people to vote.

- b) **Website and Facebook** –Gayle Carroll continues to keep Facebook updated. She recently updated Facebook with a notice about Early Voting (2/24 – 2/28).
- c) **Postcard Campaign** – At the last meeting, Beth Kelsey had initiated a postcard campaign. Gayle Carroll will bring the postcards for distribution at the next meeting. Pat suggested that it would be helpful if scripts were provided.

6) **New Business:**

- a) **High School Scholarship** – Chairman Hughes announced that we have a couple of choices – one scholarship for \$1,000 or two scholarships for \$500 each. When Pat asked about competition with the CCRC scholarship, no one thought it was relevant. Lou Urbano thought \$1,000 had a greater impact: Linda Hughes preferred two \$500 scholarships which would make two families happy. Deborah Waugh made a motion to offer one \$1,000 scholarship which was seconded by Lou Urbano. David Eldredge asked for more information about the scholarship which might help members determine how to vote. Subsequently, Deborah Waugh withdrew the motion on the table.

Chairman Hughes then explained it will be offered to a Harwich resident and an essay (750 words or less) was required. The essay question is “What does democracy mean to you and why is it important?” It was decided that the Harwich RTC would manage the process and select the winner. The deadline is May 15th, 2020. The check would be payable to the winner. Chairman Hughes then read the application line-by-line.

Deborah Waugh made a new motion to offer one \$1,000 scholarship which was seconded by Lou Urbano. When Deborah was asked why she supported \$1000, she responded that \$500 was not enough. Chairman Hughes took a vote, and the motion was approved. Pat Switchenko, Pete Switchenko and Lou Urbano agreed to serve on the committee, responsible for updating the application, issuing the press releases and collecting the responses. Pat indicated web support was needed to add the application and instructions to the HRTC web site. Chairman Hughes said he would request assistance from Jeremy Gingras. Judy Crocker offered to help if the web site was based on WordPress.

7) **Political Updates:**

- Two selectmen are up for re-election: Larry Valentine and Don Howell.
- The Town Administrator is restricting spending.
- Fire Station # 2 is opened and manned in East Harwich.
- The new Republican State Committee headquarters office opened in Woburn, MA.
- Judy Crocker has assumed the responsibility of maintaining the Cape Cod Republican calendar and asked people to update her with events.
- Chairman Hughes led the Presidential Quiz about who would win the Democratic Presidential nomination. After a couple of rounds, Bernie Sanders won with 11 votes, followed by Michael Bloomberg with 7 votes.

Next Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 19th, 2020 at 7 PM.

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