

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20th, 2020 @ 5 PM
BROOKS PARK, HARWICH

Present: Bob Braman, Eric Carroll, Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Pete Switchenko, Deborah Waugh, and Robert Waugh.

Guests: Toni Lyn, Phil Chiampa, Dolores Sherry and Nancy Von Der Heyde

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Hughes welcomed our guests.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the July 16th, 2020 meeting had previously been issued to the committee by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Linda Hughes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

3) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina reported that the opening balance was \$1414.84. We had expenses of \$500 for the \$250 donations to both Tim Whelan and Will Crocker. With interest of \$.11, the balance is now \$914.95.

4) Old Business:

a) Database, Website and Facebook - There were no updates.

5) New Business:

a) Registrar– On August 3rd, 2020, the Harwich Board of Selectman voted to appoint Deborah Sementa as a member of the Board of Registrars.

b) Town Meeting - The Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 26th in the football field.

6) Political Updates:

- The primary is September 1st, 2020. The MA republican candidates for the U S Senate are Kevin O'Connor and Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai.

- Chairman Hughes displayed the postcard that was mailed to offer voters the opportunity to receive a mail-in ballot. The process was discussed.

- Locally, Joe Powers is the Assistant Town Administrator in Harwich. He was offered a one-year extension since the Harwich Selectman were not able to agree on a candidate among the finalists.

- Chairman Hughes shared that of our 100 US Senators, 53 are Republicans and it is important to keep them. He handed a list of the five Republican 2020 US Senate races that were up for grabs: Cory Gardner, Jodi Ernst, Susan Collins, Thom Tillis, and Martha McSally. He encouraged our committee members to consider contributions.
- Pat Switchenko mentioned that Fran Manzelli had Trump lawn signs. Beth Kelsey offered to pick them up for anyone interested.
- Chairman Hughes recommended that people view a video created by Baltimore House Republican candidate Kimberly Klacik for the seat held previously by Elijah Cummings. It was a campaign ad where she walked the streets of the "real" Baltimore.
- Chairman Hughes also challenged the RTC with a homework assignment: What is QAnon? Right-wing activist Laura Loomer, who endorses the QAnon conspiracy theory, won the GOP primary in a Florida congressional race (district which includes Mar-a-Lago). HINT: QAnon is a far-right conspiracy theory alleging a secret plot by a supposed "deep-state" against President Donald Trump and his supporters.

The meeting concluded with some discussion on how to communicate with family and friends who disagree with you politically. Suggestions included to "agree to disagree" and do not talk politics. Many agreed that this was a challenge. The meeting ended at 5:55 PM.

Next Meeting –The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 17th, 2020 at 5 PM. It will be at Brooks Park again, weather permitting.

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