

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18th, 2021 @ 5 PM
Via ZOOM

Present: Judy Crocker, Will Crocker, Michele Gallucci, Jeff Hadley, Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Mary Ann Pina, Dolores Sherry, Pat Switchenko, Pete Switchenko, Lou Urbano and Sally Urbano.

Guests: Jesse Gallante, Meghan Mulherin and Anne Stewart.

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He greeted the newest guests Jesse Gallante and Meghan Mulherin and welcomed back Anne Stewart. He recognized Judy and Will Crocker (who was confirmed on 1/27/21), the State Committeewoman and Committeeman, respectively, of Cape Cod & the Islands. He explained to our guests that our meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Before the pandemic, the meetings were held at 7 PM in the Fire Station on Sisson Road. Currently, the meetings are scheduled via a Zoom call starting at 5 PM. He also shared that we have 30 elected Regular Members presently, but can go up to 35 members, so there are openings for registered Republicans in Harwich.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the January 21st, 2021 meeting had previously been issued to the committee by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Sally Urbano made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Lou Urbano. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

3) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina reported that the prior balance was \$1,035.16. There was interest of \$.04, member donation of \$35 and P. O. box rental of \$88, for an ending balance of \$982.20. Pat made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Lou and approved by all. Chairman Hughes reminded the committee that voluntary contributions could be mailed to the Harwich RTC, P O Box 1374, Harwich, MA 02645 or to Mary Ann Pina directly. Suggested contributions are \$20 per person (or \$30 per couple). It is particularly important this year since there are no plans for the Gayle and Linda yard sale. We would like sufficient funds to support a student scholarship. Pat agreed to send an email to remind everyone about the need for voluntary donations. Those who wished their contribution to go directly to the scholarship can note it in the memo line.

4) Old Business:

a) Facebook/Website/Database - The scholarship was announced in an email to our list of 500+ email addresses. Chairman Hughes asked Lou Urbano to prepare correspondence to send to our email list regarding the upcoming town election. Once written, Pat agreed to distribute.

5) New Business:

a) High School Scholarship - Lou Urbano, Dolores Sherry and Michele Gallucci are members of the HRTC scholarship committee. Michele updated the HRTC starting with her thanks to Jeremy for his assistance with the website, Pat for sending the email to 500+ recipients and Gayle Carroll for announcing the scholarship on Facebook. Information has also been shared with Town Hall and the two fire stations. The media has been contacted (WXTK - Ed Lambert and Leo Cakounes and the Cape Cod Chronicle). After the meeting Judy Crocker sent the Cape Cod Times contact: jhinkle@wickedlocal.com. The schools that have been notified include Sturgis, Trinity,

Nauset, CC Regional Tech, Monomoy and St. John Paul II. The Harwich Old Timers, Cape Cod Holistic Families and I Love Harwich Facebook groups have also been informed. With their publicity strategy, they hope to solicit a minimum of 10 applications. Both Dolores and Michele will evaluate the applications, as well as Sally. Chairman Hughes is also available to assist. He also commended them on their progress. Beth Kelsey suggested that an email be sent to request donations for the scholarship, separate from dues.

b) Where do we Republicans go from here? - Chairman Hughes led the discussion mentioning the recent Executive Orders that have been issued. He noted the split in the Republican party between those staying with Trump vs. those moving away from him. It was agreed that Trump will impact the elections in 2024. As always, the Democrats are in lock-step. Judy brought up the Gen Z GOP - the young Republicans in their 20's. They are more moderate, less polarizing and working hard. It was suggested that we should get one or two of them to set up a Cape-wide Zoom meeting so we can get to know what they think.

There was also discussion on who will run for Governor in MA as well as vaccine updates. For the 2024 elections, names were thrown out for presidential contenders including Trump, DeSantis, Cotton, Pompeo, Haley, Cruz, Noem, Romney, Pence, Rubio, and Kasich. We will continue this discussion in future meetings.

Guest Jesse Gallante shared that he was considering running for office and was interested in learning more. Judy suggested that he start with a local position such as Town Council or Selectman before aiming for State Rep. Chairman Hughes, Judy and Will offered to speak to Jesse to offer additional guidance.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18th, 2021 at 5 PM via Zoom.

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