

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

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

Guests: Jesse Gallante, Meghan Mulherin, Anne Stewart, and Mary Anderson

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then greeted our guests.

2) Mary Anderson - Candidate, Harwich Selectman - Chairman Hughes introduced Mary Anderson, our guest speaker, who is a candidate for the one open position of Selectman in Harwich. The elections are held after town meeting, and the deadline for submitting nomination papers is Friday, March 26th. He also mentioned that the races are non-partisan, and we are available to offer campaign support. Mary, who has spent most of her adult life in southern New Hampshire, has been in Harwich for 16 years. After retiring from Verizon, Mary became Director of The Family Pantry which she ran for 11 years. She now has been retired for five years and is looking to do something to utilize the skills she has to offer. She likes "action more than talk", has good organization skills and would like to see more women involved in government. When questioned by Chairman Hughes about the West Harwich schoolhouse, she agreed that we should sell it. Sally Urbano, who has actively been involved with the schoolhouse, hopes to sell it to a non-profit with an interest in history. Mary also stated her concerns with the budget which has increased significantly. Mary can be reached via her website: maryandersonharwich.com.

3) Minutes – Minutes for the February 18th, 2021 meeting had previously been issued to the committee by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Linda Hughes made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

4) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina reported that the prior balance was \$982.20. There were donations of \$555 and interest of \$.04, for an ending balance of \$1,537.24. Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Lou Urbano and approved by all. Mary Pina thanked donors for sending their checks to her home address. As a reminder, voluntary contributions could be mailed to the Harwich RTC, P O Box 1374, Harwich, MA 02645 or to Mary Ann Pina directly (3 Francis Road in Harwich 02645). Suggested contributions are \$20 per person (or \$30 per couple).

5) Old Business:

a) Correspondence regarding Town Election - Lou Urbano authored a letter to our "Harwich neighbors" regarding the 2021 Harwich Town Election, encouraging anyone interested to review the available opportunities. Pat Switchenko (with assistance from Sally Urbano) shared the letter with over 500 people in our email distribution list. Lou agreed to write another letter for distribution prior to Town Meeting. Judy Crocker has access to a Baker donation list, which includes email addresses of Harwich donors that can be added to the data base.

6) New Business:

a) High School Scholarship - Lou Urbano, Dolores Sherry and Michele Gallucci are members of the HRTC scholarship committee. Dolores updated the HRTC sharing that they reached out to eight high schools twice. An article was published in the Cape Cod Chronicle on February 25th under Student News. The deadline is May 1st, and to date, we have received one application. It is expected that the submissions will be last minute. Ed Lambert has mentioned the scholarship on WXTK radio. Dolores said that there were two other WXTK radio opportunities: 1) she could call in tomorrow (Friday) to promote the scholarship and 2) Leo Cakounes hosts the Spectrum show - prerecorded on Saturdays 11 - 1 and offers 20-minute slots to organizations. (NOTE: Dolores did call into the show on Friday and was very well received.) Dolores was seeking a volunteer for the Spectrum show and all agreed Chairman Hughes would be the perfect choice as a spokesperson.

b) Where do we Republicans go from here? - Chairman Hughes led the discussion mentioning the 100 million vaccine milestone that has been achieved. President Biden is claiming credit for this accomplishment although the vaccines were already lined up previously by former President Trump. There is continued concern about the debt level with another \$2T proposed for infrastructure. The immigration crisis was addressed. Nancy Mace, a freshman Republican congresswoman from South Carolina, was identified as a politician to watch. Beth Kelsey wondered if more seats will be available in New York as an outcome of the Cuomo investigation. Jesse Gallante understood that Lee Zeldin might run for Governor in New York. When asked about Bill Keating's retirement, Judy Crocker said he might stay on with Biden in the White House. Judy also shared that three Republicans are known to be considering entering the race for congress in the 9th congressional district.

7) Political Updates:

a) State - Judy Crocker provided updates for the State. There were issues regarding the scheduling of their next meeting and concern over the failure to observe by-laws.

b) Selectman Race - Dolores Sherry asked Jesse Gallante if he were still interested in running for Selectman, since she thought no one should run unopposed. She, as well as Lou Urbano, offered support. Candidates need to get 50 signatures. The first step is to talk to Town Clerk Anita Doucette to confirm the requirements. Pat Switchenko agreed to send them the membership list so they could have the contact information for the membership.

c) Cape Cod Cares for the Troops - Beth Kelsey reported that she spoke with Michelle DeSilva, who confirmed that the Troops in the Spotlight Memorial Day event will be held on Sunday (noon-midnight) at the Kmart parking lot.

d) Anne Stewart - Anne asked about her status as she has been a guest in attendance at three consecutive HRTC meetings. Chairman Hughes said we will add her election as a Full Member to the April agenda.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:12 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th, 2021 at 5 PM via Zoom. It is hoped that beginning with the May meeting we can schedule meetings either outdoors in Brooks Park or indoors at the Harwich Community Center.

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