

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
APRIL 15th, 2021 @ 5 PM
Via ZOOM

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

Guests: Jesse Gallante, Meghan Mulherin and LuAnne Tribastone.

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He later greeted our new guest LuAnne Tribastone, who introduced herself. She joined the meeting to see how we worked and shared that she was afraid of what was happening to our country.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the March 18th, 2021 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 beginning balance was \$1,537.24. There were no donations but there was interest of \$.02, for an ending balance of \$1,537.26. Pat Switchenko made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett and approved by all. Suggested contributions are \$20 per person (or \$30 per couple).

4) Old Business:

a) Correspondence regarding Town Meeting - Lou Urbano authored a letter regarding the 2021 Harwich Town Meeting, scheduled for May 8th at 10 AM. Pat Switchenko sent the letter to over 500 people in our email distribution list. To expand our email distribution list, Lou asked our new members to share with Pat any email addresses of contacts from Harwich (Independents and Republicans) who might be interested in receiving our correspondence. Judy Crocker had a name to share if the identity was protected. Pat informed her that all recipients were blind copied, so no names were made public. When asked by Lou about any feedback from the last letter sent, Pat responded that there were no comments.

5) New Business:

a) Election of Anne Stewart - Chairman Hughes led the discussion by mentioning that Anne was a registered Republican in Harwich, has attended four meetings (including tonight) and was interested in joining the Harwich RTC. Sally Urbano made a motion to elect Anne Stewart as a Regular Member of the Harwich RTC. The motion was seconded by Dolores Sherry and approved by all. She was then congratulated and welcomed to the group.

b) High School Scholarship - Lou Urbano, Dolores Sherry and Michele Gallucci are members of the HRTC scholarship committee. Lou Urbano said they received 3 applications and expected a few more by their deadline of May 1st. Chairman Hughes reported that the CCRC had received 32 scholarship applications, two of whom attended Monomoy Regional High School (one of whom was a CCRC winner). Chairman Hughes had sent the names of these two students to Lou to follow up with

them. Lou also made a "shout out" to Dolores Sherry for doing a great job by going on air with Leo Cakounes to promote the Harwich RTC scholarship.

c) Town Meeting - Chairman Hughes encouraged everyone to attend the Harwich Town Meeting on Saturday, May 8th. The selectmen have limited the controversial articles to speed up the meeting. There will be a vote on the historic West Harwich schoolhouse to sell the building. Sally Urbano explained that if selling, they needed to do an RFP with the hope that a 501C organization will buy it and preserve it historically. Judy Crocker suggested to Jesse Gallante, a candidate for Selectman, that Town Meeting provided a good opportunity to hand out rack cards.

d) Town Election - Chairman Hughes announced the Harwich Town Election is Tuesday, May 18th and provided a status of open positions. There are two candidates for Selectman (Jesse Gallante and Mary Anderson) to fill the position vacated by Ed McManus. He also said that Stephen Ford, a Harwich Selectman, recently passed away. It is expected that the Board of Selectmen will run a special election to finish his term. Jesse Gallante proceeded to update the committee on his campaign. He and his sister Meghan Mulherin established his web site: jesseforharwich.com. He has 100 signs to distribute. Ray Gottwald, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, invited Jesse to attend their May 1st meeting. He was also invited to join a League of Women Voters Forum. When asked, Jesse shared that his biggest concerns are taxes and the need to rein in spending. He has identified other issues on his website. When Jesse expressed frustration about being misquoted in the Cape Cod Chronicle, Judy Crocker suggested he reach out to Ed Maroney for coverage. Chairman Hughes proposed that Jesse position himself as part of the younger generation who needs a seat at the table to be heard. Will Crocker recommended door knocking as a strategy - possibly with the assistance of a group. Anyone wishing to assist Jesse should work with him directly.

e) Where do we Republicans go from here? Chairman Hughes opened the discussion mentioning the potential packing of the Supreme Court. He is impressed by Nancy Mace, a freshman Republican congresswoman from South Carolina, who is solid and intelligent. He recommended that the committee members identify accomplished politicians and share their findings at future meetings.

6) 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. Chairman Hughes thought it would be helpful if we could sign a petition written by Judy about the issues. There was also discussion about potential candidates running for office. Jesse Brown from Plymouth, a candidate for Congress, might be interested in attending our next meeting.

b) Recruiting the Youth - Michele Gallucci inquired about how we, as Republicans, can recruit young people into our party. Jeff Hadley had done some research and Michele asked Jeff to work with her on this topic, which will be further explored at our next meeting. Beth Kelsey suggested that we get a copy of the voter registration, sort by age, and send out a mailing. Lou Urbano commented that we are lacking in our offerings to young people, as compared to the Democrats.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20th, 2021 at 5 PM. Weather permitting, we will plan to meet outdoors at Brooks Park on Oak Street in Harwich.

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