

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
MAY 20th, 2021 @ 5 PM
BROOKS PARK, HARWICH

Present: Robert Braman, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, Will Crocker, Michele Gallucci, 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 Brown, Adam Lange and LuAnne Tribastone.

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Jesse Brown - Chairman Hughes welcomed Jesse Brown, a candidate for the 9th congressional district running against the incumbent Bill Keating. Jesse introduced himself as a veteran, father, business owner as well as a founder of a nonprofit organization. He recently had a terrific launch announcing his candidacy. His concerns include out of control spending, socialism, the crisis at the border, lack of support for Israel and defunding the police. He positions himself as energetic and a fresh face to replace Bill Keating, who only passed one bill in his ten years. He needs everyone on board and united. He would appreciate donations and welcomes calls and emails. More information about Jesse can be found on his website: jessebrowforcongress.com.

3) Adam Lange - Chairman Hughes then introduced Adam Lange, a member of the Mass GOP Election Review Committee, who was providing RTC training. He distributed his presentation titled "MASS GOP - Town, City & Ward Committee Election Integrity Training". He addressed the Election Officer Subcommittee, where each party is entitled to 50% of the election officers. The RTC's job is to staff it. Adam also discussed the responsibilities of the registrar and the process for selection. Chairman Hughes commented that the Harwich RTC is already in compliance with these requirements.

4) Minutes – Minutes for the April 15th, 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 Eric Carroll. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

5) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina presented her report. The ending balance is \$1537.29. Lou Urbano made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Linda Hughes and approved by all.

6) Old Business:

a) High School Scholarship - Lou Urbano, Dolores Sherry and Michele Gallucci are members of the HRTC scholarship committee. Lou Urbano said they received 9 applications. The committee, in addition to Sally Urbano, Chairman Hughes and Linda Hughes, reviewed the applications and picked the top three. In a subsequent Zoom call, they selected the winner - Henry Watson, a Harwich resident from Nauset High School who will be attending UMass Amherst. They will present the check to the winner as a photo opportunity.

The team felt strongly about another applicant and raised \$300 for a 2nd scholarship. Michele Gallucci made a motion to use the \$300 raised for awarding a 2nd scholarship. The motion was seconded by Bob Braman and approved by all.

Lou confirmed that he would be sending letters to all who applied about the results. It was emphasized how important it was to get publicity about our scholarship, especially noting that this is the second annual scholarship. Lou will prepare a write up for Pat to send to our email list. Lou will also notify the guidance counselors of the winners.

b) Town Meeting - The Harwich Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 8th for 2 1/2 hours in cold and rainy weather. Among the results, as reported by Sally Urbano, was approval of the sale of the historic West Harwich schoolhouse. They are now waiting to see if an RFP is needed.

c) Town Election - As a result of the Harwich Town Election on Tuesday, May 18th, the two debt exclusion questions passed supporting the purchase of a new quint pumper-ladder truck for the fire department as well as the annual road maintenance plan. Mary Anderson claimed a seat in the board of selectman, beating Jesse Gallante (who has attended the last few HRTC meetings). John Gough won a term on the water and wastewater commission, defeating Ed McManus.

d) Facebook - Gayle Carroll said all was well with Facebook. She even managed to keep it updated while traveling on vacation.

7) New Business:

a) Where do we Republicans go from here? Chairman Hughes encouraged members to identify politicians who we admire. He is impressed with Nancy Mace, a freshman Republican congresswoman from South Carolina. Pete Switchenko added he was also impressed with Elise Stefanik, who was recently elected Chair of the House Republican Conference replacing Liz Cheney as well as Kristi Noem, Governor of South Dakota. Recognition was also given to Kelly Tshibaka, a Republican Senate candidate seeking to challenge Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski.

b) Recruiting the Youth - Last month, Michele Gallucci inquired about how we, as Republicans, can recruit young people into our party. She will get more involved with this topic now that the scholarship activities are completed. She mentioned Jeff Hadley will work with her. Lou Urbano stressed that we need to know what they want and compare it to what we offer. Will Crocker suggested that we contact a young Republican to speak to our organization and recommended Mark Little.

8) Political Updates:

a) State - Will Crocker provided updates for the State. There were issues regarding the scheduling of their May meeting, concern over the failure to observe by-laws and lack of plans for identifying a site and establishing rules for the next convention. It was asked how do we go forward as a party if the state committee is divided? Anyone with concerns is encouraged to send emails to Will (electwillcrocker@outlook.com). Will and Judy are also looking for Republican candidates.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:15 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17th, 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**