

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
JUNE 17th, 2021 @ 5 PM
BROOKS PARK, HARWICH

Present: Dick Bowers, Jan Bowers, Robert Braman, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, Judy Crocker, Will Crocker, Michele Gallucci, 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: Carl Monroe and LuAnne Tribastone

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced Carl Monroe, on the Executive Committee of the Cape Cod Republican Club, who just applied to become a Friend of the Harwich RTC. He also welcomed back LuAnne Tribastone.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the May 20th, 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 Mary Ann Pina. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

3) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina presented her report. The opening balance was \$1537.29. There were deposits of \$450.03 (which included \$.03 in interest). The expenses totaled \$1,453.84 (scholarship checks of \$1,000 and \$400, as well as secretary supplies of \$53.84). The ending balance is \$533.48. Deborah Waugh made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Michele Gallucci and approved by all.

4) Old Business:

a) Facebook and Website- Gayle Carroll reported that Facebook was updated. She was looking for photos of Jesse Brown from our last HRTC meeting. Beth Kelsey suggested that she contact Jesse's aide for the photos. Pat Switchenko thanked Jeremy Gingras for the recent update of our website, which include the announcement and photo of the 2021 scholarship winners as well as approved minutes.

b) High School Scholarship - Lou Urbano, Dolores Sherry and Michele Gallucci are members of the 2021 HRTC scholarship committee. The \$1000 winner was Henry Watson, a Harwich resident from Nauset High School, who will be attending UMass Amherst. Justus Canto of Monomoy Regional High School, who will be attending Cape Cod Community College, was granted a special scholarship of \$400. The scholarship article and photo were published in the June 16th edition of the Cape Cod Chronicle. Lou and Sally Urbano joined Chairman Hughes at the presentation of the check. They all agreed it was a great feeling to experience the gratitude of the winning student along with his parents.

When Nauset High School listed its graduates in the newspaper, it listed the student names on a different page from the scholarships. The Harwich RTC was not included in the list of scholarships awarded. Chairman Hughes suggested it might have been a timing issue. After some discussion, Michele agreed to contact Nauset High School to inform them of the oversight, with the hope that a correction could be printed in the newspaper. Lou Urbano said he sent letter to all nine applicants, informing them of the results. Chairman Hughes thanked the team for their wonderful job.

5) New Business:

a) HRTC Committee Leadership - Under the HRTC By-Laws, Chairman Hughes explained that we can fill various committees and chairpeople positions, including Finance, Membership, Registration/Election, Publicity, Program and Nominating. Pat Switchenko previously asked Chairman Hughes to initiate discussion on these opportunities to determine if any members were interested. He then ran through the list describing each position. The outcome of the discussion was as follows:

- Membership: Michele Gallucci volunteered to be the Membership Chair. She has already been active in trying to reach out to younger people. Beth Kelsey suggested that she review the "likes" on our Facebook page to see if they were residents of Harwich and candidates for our committee. Pat Switchenko suggested contacting members of the Newcomers Group. Michele wants to consider a recruitment social.

- Finance: It was determined that our Treasurer Mary Ann Pina already manages the financial responsibilities in her position.

- Registration: In her current job in the Registrar Office, Dorothy Hemmings-Bassett already oversees the registration process.

b) Where do we Republicans go from here?

- **State of Massachusetts**: Republican State Committeewoman Judy Crocker and State Committeeman Will Crocker updated the team on activities at the state level, which has been self-destructive. It was recognized that there is a need to get back together now with multiple factions within the party. There were issues with State Committee Chairman Jim Lyons regarding abusive behavior, the scheduling of their caucuses, the failure to observe by-laws and lack of plans for identifying a site and establishing rules for the next convention. A recent Boston Herald article was titled: "Massachusetts House Republicans call for resignation of State Committee Chairman Jim Lyons". This was regarding the refusal to call on Deborah Martel, an elected official, to resign for homophobic remarks. A major concern is that no money has been raised, so there is no funding available for the 2022 convention. Their discussion concluded with thoughts of who might be running for Governor.

- **Admired Politicians**: Chairman Hughes encouraged members to identify politicians who we admire. He is impressed with Nancy Mace, a freshman Republican congresswoman from South Carolina. Others who made the list include Kristi Noem (Governor of South Dakota), Ron DeSantis (Governor of Florida), Mark Robinson (Lt. Governor of North Carolina) and Kelly Tshibaka (a Republican Senate candidate seeking to challenge Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski). Chairman Hughes suggested that we keep on looking.

c) Recruiting the Youth - Michele Gallucci has been researching groups to determine how we, as Republicans, can recruit young people into our party. This includes the Massachusetts Federation of Young Republicans, the Massachusetts Young Republicans, Gen Z GOP, and National Teen Age Republicans. Lou Urbano offered to get her names to begin a target list. Michele's goal - now as Membership Chair - is to increase membership and bring younger people in to replenish our membership.

6) Local Updates:

- Gayle Carroll reminded us that Beach and Transfer stickers are now available.
- Bob Braman suggested that the HRTC consider buying a state in the Chamber of Commerce Monopoly game to gain more exposure. Chairman Hughes asked Bob to investigate it further.
- There will be a special election in September to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Ford, who recently passed away. There is a deadline of June 30th to pull papers.
- Harwich is going forward with sidewalk construction on Route 28 between Saquatucket Harbor and Bank Street.
- There will be an upcoming town yard sale this year but will not be held in one central location. Instead, the sale will be run individually.
- We have a need to find an indoor location for future meetings after the summer, possibly the Harwich Community Center.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 15th, 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**