

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16th, 2021 @ 5 PM
BROOKS PARK, HARWICH

Present: Robert Braman, David Eldridge, Jeff Hadley, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Carl Monroe, Mary Ann Pina, Dolores Sherry, Anne Stewart, Pat Switchenko, Pete Switchenko and LuAnne Tribastone.

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the August 19th, 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 Bob Braman. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved by all.

3) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mary Ann Pina reported that the previous balance was \$407.53. There was a donation of \$520 made from the Gayle and Linda Yard Sale. There was no interest, and the current balance is \$927.53. Pat Switchenko made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Dolores Sherry. There was no discussion, and the report was approved by all.

4) Membership Report - Membership Chair Michele Gallucci was not present but she previously shared that she is reaching out to the MA Young Republicans (Gen Z). It is challenging recruiting younger member who are busy with school and their jobs. Chairman Hughes read a thank you letter from Henry Watson, one of the high school scholarship winners. Justus Canto previously sent the HRTC a thank you letter for his scholarship award.

5) Old Business:

a) Facebook and Website- Both Facebook and the HRTC are being kept updated.

6) New Business:

a) Feedback on Selectman Candidates - During last month's meeting, the three candidates (Jeff Handler, Julie Kavanagh, and Mark Kelleher) attended and gave presentations. Their election will be held on Tuesday, September 21st. The membership offered their opinions on the candidates.

b) Special Town Meeting - A special town meeting will be scheduled in the middle of October. Dolores Sherry questioned why the town would consider \$3M for the construction of two new playgrounds in addition to refurbishing an existing one. She did not think the town had the youth population to justify the expenditure. She suggested that the playground(s) could be fixed by volunteers, including scouts. Chairman Hughes explained the challenge was finding someone to lead the effort. There was also discussion on the \$1M funding request for Brooks Academy.

c) Location of Future Meetings - There is a need to find an indoor location for future HRTC meetings as the weather gets colder. Chairman Hughes said that Pat Switchenko contacted the Fire Station on Sisson Road to determine if future HRTC meetings could be scheduled in their conference room every third Thursday, as they have done in the past. The Fire Station agreed to our use of the room if everyone wears a mask. The membership agreed that 5 PM was a convenient time so Pat will let the Fire Station know our plans. Since Chairman Hughes will not be available for the October

meeting, the HRTC agreed to cancel the October meeting and schedule the next meeting for Thursday, November 18th at 5 PM at the Fire Station on 175 Sisson Road.

d) Admired Politicians - Each month, Chairman Hughes encourages members to identify politicians who we admire. He is impressed with the following politicians:

- **Anna Pauline Luna**, a USAF veteran, who is running for Congress in Florida's 13th district. She will take on Democratic incumbent Charlie Crist in November.

- Rebecca **Kleefish**, running for Governor of Wisconsin in 2022. She was previously Scott Walker's Lieutenant Governor.

- **Kim Klacik**, who was the Republican nominee for Maryland's 7th congressional district in both the April 2020 special election and November 2020 election. She lost both elections, but she is not giving up.

Bob Braman is impressed with **Carla Spalding**, who was born in Jamaica and served in the U. S Navy. She won the Republican primary for U. S. House Florida District 23 in 2020 but lost to incumbent Debbie Wasserman Schultz in the general election.

7) Local Updates:

- During the meeting, LuAnne Tribastone was collecting signatures on MA ballot initiatives. Beth Kelsey asked if Jesse Brown's opponent Mark Little is still running. The group questioned if Charlie Baker was re-running for Governor. Gail Huff Brown, wife of Scott Brown, is considering running for Congress in N.H. There was discussion on the recall election in CA. Beth Kelsey also suggested that the HRTC reach out to local independents who voted Republican and invite them to our HRTC meetings.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 5:55 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th, 2021, at 5 PM (October meeting is cancelled). We will be meeting at the Harwich Fire Station at 175 Sisson Road. Everyone is required to wear a mask.

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