

MINUTES
HARWICH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 18th, 2021 @ 5 PM
HARWICH FIRE STATION

Present: Robert Braman, Gayle Carroll, Eric Carroll, Judy Crocker (by phone), David Eldridge, Michele Gallucci, Jeff Hadley, Linda Hughes, Peter Hughes, Beth Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Mary Ann Pina, Pat Switchenko, Deborah Waugh, and Robert Waugh.

Guests: Betsy Casey and Pat Casey

1) Call to Order – Chairman Peter Hughes called the meeting to order at 5 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed the members back to the Fire Station after months of outdoor meetings at Brooks Park and Zoom calls. He also welcomed guests Betsy and Pat Casey; he appreciated their attendance and looked forward to their participation.

2) Minutes – Minutes for the September 16th, 2021, meeting had previously been issued to the committee by Secretary Pat Switchenko. Bob Braman made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Deborah Waugh. 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 \$927.53. There was a donation of \$20 and \$.03 in interest, resulting in the current balance of \$947.56. Pat Switchenko made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Bob Braman. There was no discussion, and the report was approved by all. For the benefit of our guests, Chairman Hughes explained that our proceeds from voluntary contributions and the Gayle and Linda Yard Sale enabled us to offer two high scholarships this year as well as to donate to some candidates.

4) Membership Report - Membership Chair Michele Gallucci informed the committee that she was working with Jared Valenzola from the Young Republicans to determine how to attract new members. She was originally going to do something Cape-wide in conjunction with the Young Republican group. But based on input from Will and Judy Crocker, she decided to do something small and local. Michele proposed doing an event in the January/February timeframe - perhaps on a weeknight after work (5:30 - 7 PM). She asked Chairman Hughes if he could provide opening remarks at the event. Her goal is to recruit 5 - 10 new members. Chairman Hughes suggested that we consider First Crush Winery as a venue, where we have had successful events in the past and typically charged \$25 per person. Members would all bring a dish. Concerns about First Crush Winery included serving drinks if high school students were present as well as the difficulty in finding the site, especially in the dark. March was also suggested as a time frame. Michele was willing to handle the promotions. Topics that need to be addressed include: When & where, How to do it, Who to invite, \$ and Timing. The HRTC might consider contributing \$250 and others might donate individually. Those who agreed to work with Michele on her New Membership Committee are Jeff Hadley, Beth Kelsey, and Betsy Casey.

5) Old Business:

a) Facebook and Website- Chairman Hughes commended Gayle Carroll on her ongoing effort to keep both Facebook and the HRTC web site updated. Gayle explained that when she posts updates to Facebook, they automatically get posted on the website.

6) New Business:

a) Special Town Meeting - Bob Braman summarized the activities at the special town meeting, where basically everything passed. Most articles pertained to wastewater issues. Chairman Hughes recommended that the membership pay attention to the \$1.2M that was being requested for a foundation at Brooks Academy.

b) MA Ballot Initiatives - Jeff Hadley provided an overview and update of the initiatives. The deadline for collecting signatures was November 17th. David Eldredge shared that Governor Baker just backed out of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) which was projected to hike gas prices.

c) Cape Cod Republican Club (CCRC) - There will be a Christmas Party at Tugboats on Sunday, December 5th at 2 PM. HRTC members were encouraged to attend the party as well as join the CCRC in 2022.

d) Admired Politicians - Each month, Chairman Hughes encourages members to identify politicians who we admire. He printed the following names on the board: Brady Duke (FL), Derrick Van Orden (WI), Eli Crane (AZ), Morgan Luttrell (TX) and Ryan Zinke (MT). He explained that they are all retired Navy Seals who are running for office and suggested that we follow them.

e) Recruiting the Youth - As Michele previously mentioned she is collaborating with the Young Republicans. When anyone is asked about what the Republican party represents, we can share the three pillars: lower taxes, less government and local control.

7) Local Updates:

- No one knows yet if Charlie Baker is re-running for Governor. Geoff Diehl has announced his candidacy. Karen Polito might consider running.

- On the Cape, Representative Tim Whelan is running for Sheriff. The campaign kick-off is November 30th from 6 - 8 PM at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center. Thus far, there are three Democrats running for Tim's seat and a Republican who has not been officially announced yet. No one knew of any opposition to Julian Cyr.

- Judy Crocker called in and provided an update at the state level. There was discussion about the upcoming State Convention.

Next Meeting - The meeting concluded at 6:03 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16th, 2021, at 5 PM. 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**