

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club  
Membership Meeting  
May 5, 2025**

Called to order: 6:08

**Attendees:** John Rossi, Shirley Stone, Sandy Zito, Susan Ragusa, Mel Donaldson, Jess Lurie, Bob Donaldson, Pat Evans, Laura Brown

**Treasurer's Report**

Sandy reported that there has been no recent activity with the Club's finances. Presently, the account shows a balance of \$384.48 This amount includes the \$.04 interest that has been accrued.

John mentioned that most of the Club's expenses go to the yearly payments covering the web site and domain usage.

John noted that this year's membership meeting was delayed due to the many activities members had been involved in including: collecting campaign signatures; attending political rallies and setting up Speaker Series presentations.

**Election of Steering Committee Officers**

John Rossi for Co-President	(nominated by Sandy, seconded by Shirley)
Shirley Stone for Co-President	(nominated by John, seconded by Susan)
Sandy Zito for Treasurer	(nominated by John, seconded by Shirley)
Susan Ragusa for Corresponding Secretary	(nominated by John, seconded by Sandy)
Mel Donaldson for Reporting Secretary	(nominated by John, seconded by Shirley)

All nominations were unanimously approved.

**Topics of Discussions**

The rest of the meeting was focused on the feelings of frustration and, at times, hopelessness in light of the current political situation. A common sentiment expressed by members was the need for Democrat leadership to let us know of effective actions we can take to protect our democracy.

For some, the local weekly protests were seen as important measures in both keeping attention on vital issues as well as providing the demonstrators with a cathartic sense of doing SOMETHING. Other members felt there was more value in attending large, heavily attended and well-organized protests, especially those with politically inspirational speakers.

Jess Lurie pointed out groups that were providing ideas for action. These include: Women's March, Move On, Hands Off and the 50501 Movement.

Discussions also emphasized the importance of getting involved in local campaigns not only for town/village board seats but also for school and library positions.

### **Speaker Series**

A suggestion was made to have an event inviting those running for District 20 Dutchess County Legislator. The meet-the-candidates forum would include Troy Haley and Kristofer Munn. Both are Democrats.

Susan and Shirley will look into this idea.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:18 PM