

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club  
Meeting  
June 12, 2024**

**MINUTES**

Called to order: 5:47

Attendees: John Rossi, Shirley Stone, Sandy Zito, Susan Ragusa, Mel Donaldson

### **Treasurer's Report**

There have been no changes to the club's finances. Assets remain at \$479.00.

### **Community Engagement**

A discussion was had regarding what the club is doing to elicit community engagement.

The *Speaker Series* has been a big success generating a great response from the community as shown by sizable turnouts at these meetings. Topics discussed by our speakers have centered around local politics as well as issues of community concern or interest.

The *Civic Awareness* committee continues informing and explaining the issues, resolutions and plans discussed in town board meetings to the public. John has shared how these reports generate an uptick in website visits when they are published.

### **Political Engagement**

The club realizes its important responsibility and role in political campaigns/elections. In the past, many hours of door-knocking, phone-calling and materials-distribution have been done by club volunteers.

In continuing with this sense of civic duty, a fundraiser will be held, possibly in July, to aid the campaign of Dan Aymar-Blair, who is running for Dutchess Comptroller.

Details for the backyard fundraiser are being worked on now.

The Speaker Series committee is also working on having Michelle Hinchey, speak on, among other issues, her proposed legislation to replace Central Hudson with a newly established Hudson Valley Power Authority.

The club will look into having Sarahana, who is a co-sponsor of the HVPA proposal, speak as well. She is running for a second term in the New York State Assembly.

This event will take place in July.

## **Membership**

John would like the club to work on adding new members to its roster. We now have a membership of 21-22.

One idea discussed is to have the membership form available on the club website.

Another effort would be to mail a club application, including a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to approximately 10-15 community members who have shown an interest in the club in the past.

John will take the lead on these actions and hopes to have them completed before the end of the calendar year.

## **Calendar**

A list of dates for steering committee meetings has been established: July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, and November 21.

Meeting adjourned: 6:55

Respectfully submitted,  
Mel Donaldson  
Recording secretary