

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club
Membership Meeting
November 12, 2023**

Called to order: 3:10

Attendees: John Rossi, Shirley Stone. Sandy Zito. Susan Ragusa, Mel Donaldson, Bob Donaldson, Julie Zito, May Rossi, Jess Lurie, Pat Evans, Eleanor Pupko

Welcome

After John welcomed all those present, members introduced themselves to the rest of the group.

The need to build up membership and involvement was then mentioned as something that should be addressed in a future meeting.

County Election Results

Roger Quon had sent out an email showing a list of 15 canvassers who took on the work of knocking on 3,500 doors in the recent county-election campaigns.

The importance of this work, in which members of our own RDC played an important role, was recognized, as was the contributions of those who assumed the duty of drivers for the canvassers. These efforts were especially needed in light of the lack of support given by the County Democrat Committee to the local candidates.

Speaker Series

While the Club is seen as being strong in its role in canvassing for candidates and local issues, its second strength is in its Speaker Series program.

The concern for safe streets, particularly in the village, had been decided by the steering committee to be the next issue of focus for the club. Susan Ragusa had initiated contact with Emily Dozier, a senior planner with the Dutchess County Transportation Council involved with the Complete Streets program.

An invitation was extended to Emily to speak to the Dem Club and community guests interested in making village streets safer. Although Emily was willing to

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speak to us, she later had to decline citing the fact that Complete Streets was already working with the village board.

At this time, Susan was also asked by village board member Lydia Slaby to refrain from considering Ms. Dozier as a Series Speaker. The board was already planning on having her meet with the community when their work together could offer proposals, clarifications and suggestions for community discussion.

Other Business

Jess Lurie, a member of the Rhinebeck Democrats Club as well as the Rhinebeck Democrat Committee, shared with the group her work with the newly formed Events and Engagement Council. The mission of this Council is to "... engage, educate, and encourage the public to espouse in a variety of actions that will turn the entirety of Dutchess County blue." Their work will involve being fully engaged in local and county events throughout the year,

She has compiled a comprehensive list of opportunities in which this Council can have a presence and has asked for the help of much needed volunteers.

Adjourned: 4:45

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Donaldson
Recording Secretary