

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club**

**April 5, 2022**

**Minutes**

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April 18, 2022

**Members:**

Jeff Romano*	Victor Britton	Linda Kagan	Roger Quon*
David Weiner*	Betty Leigh	Erin Sanchez*	
John Rossi*	Julie Zito*	Joann Gelb	
Diane Britton	Eleanor Pupko*	Susan Ragusa*	

\*In attendance

**Time and Location**

The meeting started at approximately 6:00 p.m. and was conducted virtually.

**Meeting Packet**

Prior to the meeting members were emailed a copy of the agenda (Attachment I), an updated draft of club by-laws and minutes from the March 12, 2022, meeting.

**Discussion**

David welcomed members and provided a brief review of the meeting’s agenda followed by a motion to approve minutes of the March 12, 2022, meeting which were affirmed by the group.

David then shared a summary of the most current version of the bylaws triggering several questions and points of view specific to Article XI paragraph 5. After an extensive discussion the group agreed fifteen percent of the voting membership or 10 voting members in attendance – whichever is greater – will constitute a quorum. Additionally, members agreed fifty percent of the voting membership or twenty-five voting members – whichever is greater – will constitute a quorum for votes to endorse a candidate for public office. Seeing there were no further modifications to the bylaws David agreed to modify Article XI, paragraph 5 and circulate to all members, including those unable to attend the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was further agreed the current roster of members will be asked to ratify the updated bylaws<sup>1</sup> by email.

David advised the attendees that he, Jeff, and John discussed the framework of the club as efforts now shift to growing membership. The club would need an interim Treasurer for which John has volunteered to fulfill. John said he had researched typical bank requirements for an unincorporated association and, as expected, determined a federal tax identification is needed and bylaws. John agreed to meet with local banks and credit unions in setting up an account.

In terms of growing membership, it was suggested each current member should personally reach out to one individual to attend the next meeting. Another suggestion was for the club to develop a “welcome letter”. Jeff concurred with this idea and pointed to the need for a website. Susan

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<sup>1</sup> A PDF version of the bylaws, inclusive of the changes made to Article XI, paragraph 5 appears as Attachment II of these minutes.

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asked Jeff if he would be willing to develop a club logo which Jeff readily agreed to do. John reminded the group the club had secured the domain [www.rhinebeckdemocratsclub.org](http://www.rhinebeckdemocratsclub.org).

Members discussed the dual importance for growing membership while also cultivating a club culture of engagement to advance the development of new candidates. Erin called attention to upcoming elections driven by candidate filing deadlines. Some members were unfamiliar with these deadlines to which Jeff explained Democratic caucuses have only recently been replaced with primaries in both the Town and Village requiring candidates to petition for signatures months prior to the election. It was suggested more information be provided to members regarding election law.

The meeting closed but not before members briefly discussed some current issues confronting Town and Village residents with all agreeing it is important to attend meetings, volunteer for committees and subcommittees and continue asking questions of elected officials.

#### **Adjournment**

At approximately 7:10 p.m. David thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

TBD

Minutes respectively submitted by.

John Rossi

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**Attachment I**

DRAFT

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**AGENDA**

RDC - April 5, 2022, Meeting 6pm - 7pm (zoom link below)

Ratify bylaws

Review minutes / approve minutes

Discussion

1. Interim organization before election of club officers & timing of election
  2. Activities
    - banking
    - membership: dues? fund raising?
    - website
    - local issues
  3. Subcommittees
    - prioritizing and coordinating activities to support local issues

David will facilitate. John will keep minutes.

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**Attachment II**

DRAFT