

Rhinebeck Democrats Club

May 17, 2022

DRAFT Minutes

June 5, 2022

Jeff Romano*	Julie Zito*	Susan Ragusa*	Mary Work
David Weiner*	Sandy Zito*	Joann Gelb	Karen Trivelli
John Rossi*	Roger Quon	Erin Sanchez	Deborah Eisenberg
Diane Britton	Betty Leigh	Shirley Stone*	Brant Neuneker*
Victor Britton	Eleanor Pupko*	Dan Sistarenik*	Jon Wechsler

*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).

Discussion

David acknowledged the club meeting was taking place while voting for the school budget and board candidates was in progress. Knowing some members had yet to vote David promised to keep the meeting to 60-75 minutes and moved directly to the top of the agenda introducing Jeff.

Jeff provided a brief overview explaining a Democratic club was not new to Rhinebeck and, with about 100 existing Democratic party clubs in NYS, not uncommon. Jeff felt current efforts to relaunch a Rhinebeck club for Democrats had progressed steadily in just a few short months.

Next, David suggested that each participant take a couple moments to introduce themselves. Each of the attendees share information about themselves and their aspirations for the club.

David was pleased to ask Brant, a current Village Trustee with years of public service, to address the group. Brant summarized the many functions and departments he has experienced throughout his governing career including planning & zoning, sewer, and water. Brant embraces a “roll up your sleeves” approach to governing and convincingly illustrated this point sharing various tasks he helped champion in securing grants and financing required to upgrade the Village’s water treatment plant.

Brant fielded several questions from the group. All attendees appreciated Brant’s comments and his responses to questions.

David asked John to discuss the timeline for Village and Town elections. John explained this topic surfaced during a previous meeting and Erin and John collaborated on a response. John defined a timeline in which Village primaries take place in January. Candidates desiring to have their name appear on the ballot would be required to collect and vet signatures in the weeks

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prior to the January primary election. The Village general election would take place in March. Town primaries take place in June requiring candidates, like for the Village, to petition and validate signatures several weeks in advance of the June primary. The Town general election takes place in November.

David and John each spoke to the topic of membership offering themselves as co-volunteers. Shirley asked about club dues and the process for enrollment. David explained dues are covered in the bylaws¹ and calls for a special subcommittee to be formed as membership grows. John stated the general view is for a modest annual fee possibly discounted for younger families. In terms of an enrollment process John asserted a need for an online/web-based screen. The conversation neatly segued to the next item on the agenda, a "Club Event". Jeff and Brant recalled, in years past, "socials" taking place, including a very well received ice cream social. John, David, and Shirley agreed to meet separately and report back to the club during the June meeting.

David noted that the ten members present constituted a quorum. David asked and secured approval of the April minutes, the one-page communication document and logo artwork.

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

¹ Article 5

AGENDA

RDC – May 17, 2022, Meeting 6pm - 7pm (zoom link below)

- 1a. Why A Club? - Jeff
- 1b. New Member Introduction - David/new members
2. Q&A with Brant Neuneker
3. 2023 Village and Town Election calendar - John
4. Membership - Dave/John
5. Club Event - Dave/John
6. Approval of Minutes (attached)
7. Comments/Suggestions - Members

David will facilitate. John will keep minutes.