

Draft Minutes
Annual Meeting of the Rhinebeck Democrats Club
February 26, 2023, 2:00 pm Starr Library

Quorum: Twenty (20) members attended the meeting.

Eleanor Pupko called the meeting to order shortly after 2:00 pm.

Election of Officers

Eleanor Pupko asked for officer nominations. The following members were nominated, seconded and elected:

- John Rossi, Co-Chair
- Shirley Stone, Co-Chair
- Sandy Zito, Treasurer
- David Weiner, Recording Secretary
- Mel Donaldson, Corresponding Secretary

Following the election of officers, John Rossi chaired the remainder of the meeting

Speaker Series

Shirley Stone and Susan Ragusa reported on plans for a speaker series, and invited comments. Some purposes of the speaker series would be to inform the public, promote member continuity and engagement, publicity and member recruitment.

The first session is planned for March 26 on at Starr Library. The plan is to hold the meeting on the main floor of the library and provide child care in order to attract younger attendees. This and other events would be announced in local news services.

Other topics suggested by members of the group were:

- Aging in place
- Health Care Issues
- Workforce housing & proposed Locust Hill development
- State Senator and State Assemblywoman talks
- Elected official term limits
- Community choice energy aggregation
- Pace of development & traffic
- Underserved residents
- Democratic county-wide office candidates talks

After Election Analysis

Eleanor Pupko reviewed the results of the village Democratic primary election. She noted that vote splitters essentially reduced the vote for each of the two trustee challengers endorsed by

for the trustee positions. Some ideas suggested by the group to improve results for candidates endorsed by the Club were:

- Appoint a campaign manger
- Make early telephone calls to lock in petition signatures
- Post an annual election schedule to get a head start on preparations

Upcoming Town Election:

John Rossi led a discussion about the upcoming town election. It was noted that petitioning for Town Supervisor, two Town Trustee positions including an open seat, and fifteen Rhinebeck Democratic Committee Member positions begins in April. There are currently no identified challengers to incumbents.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 3:30 pm.

Submitted by David Weiner

Approved: _____