

Rhinebeck Democrats Club
Steering Committee Meeting
October 12, 2023

Called to order: 5:10

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

Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$146.26
Savings: \$50.00
To be deposited: \$20.00

As a result of the ice cream social, \$50 has been deposited from dues paid for two new family memberships.

John cut a check for \$150 to reimburse himself for the payment he made to Mr. Ding-a-Ling at the ice cream social. This does not affect the Club's balance as it now stands.

Speaker Series

It was decided that the Club need not have a speaker every month. Among other reasons, it is thought that it would be difficult to consistently draw a suitable number of people to attend these events.

The committee discussed suggestions for future speakers including representatives from Central Hudson and Fair Care for Careworkers. However, it was felt the current community concern for road safety in the village should be addressed first.

John will contact the NYS Department of Transportation's representative for community affairs to see if someone would speak to us about measures that could be taken to ensure road safety for children. As a follow-up, the club would consider inviting Ric Lewitt to speak on how the village could/would implement those measures.

Canvassing

Club members and friends have been very busy with canvassing for Democrat candidates for county offices. John estimated turfs he has canvassed with club members Susan, Shirley, Jesse Laurie and Eleanor Pupko to be in excess of 235 doors, and will continue to increase through Election Day.

Sandy and David Weiner have reached 316 homes covering 6 turfs within the city of Poughkeepsie.

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County Executive Candidates and ADA Issues

John shared details of a non-partisan voter resource guide comparing the proposed policies offered by each of the two candidates running for Dutchess County Executive pertaining to issues affecting the disability community.

The voter guide had just been published and the committee agreed with John that sharing this guide with members and followers of the club would be useful. Susan will include the link to the guide in an upcoming email blast.

Campaign Fundraisers and Events

The Dutchess County Democrats have invited the club to attend, and spread word, of two upcoming events: a fundraiser in Poughkeepsie on Tuesday, October 17, and a GOTV training/rally on Wednesday, October 18. It was agreed that Susan should send out notification promoting each event.

Meeting adjourned: 6:28

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Donaldson
Recording Secretary