

## NORTHERN GRAFTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS STEERING COMMITTEE

February 6, 2017

The meeting was held at Woodsville Savings Bank, Franconia at 11:00 am. Present were: Jill Brewer, Doug Evelyn, Jim Forrest, Sue Ford, Carl and Nancy Martland, Susan Moore, Betsey and Chuck Phillips, and Claire Von Karls.

### 1) Financial Report.

Carl Martland distributed the Treasurer's December 31, 2016 FINAL report, and highlighted to the gratification of all that end-of year checking account balance was \$4,047. With final closeout invoices and adjustments in January 2017, the current balance YTD is \$3,417. This figure results from solid "Bedrock" campaign fundraising in 2016 and a successful 2016 JFK event, plus prudent management. Some discussion ensued concerning further fundraising goals and approaches and the "philosophy" behind funding our operations and our services to local area Democrats. We agreed to maintain a balance of c. \$1,000. and to continue to campaign for support of candidates, campaign costs, and support of events and services, recognizing that from providing services and holding successful events, we also build support for all our activities. In response to inquiries we've received from people who want to contribute we discussed the pros and cons of setting up a "pay pal" or ACT Blue (option preferred by the group) account and investing in a contribution envelope to be distributed when needed and used at events. Further study of the these matters is underway. - *Susan M is working on contribution envelope.*

### 2) Plan for February 12 Event (Sugar Hill Town Hall (Crapo Building), 5-6:30, 2/13/2017.

Susan and Chuck lead the discussion about our objectives for the February 12 follow-up to the successful January 29 "2017 launch" meeting. The group discussed lessons learned from the January event and applauded Chuck for his compilation of the many group comments on issues and action ideas generated by the 86 participants. Susan, Chuck and some participants had already circulated their observations and recommendations for next steps and these were discussed with the following consensus for planning the next and future events:

- find ways to keep participant interest and momentum - enlist their ideas and participation
- try to get "issue" tables to name point person to follow-up with the table agenda and link with "steering" committee
- consider our group a "steering committee" providing support to sub-groups, communications, and appropriate resources -- but try to achieve group driven follow-up
- we have limited ability to provide infrastructure to multiple groups; they need to develop their own approaches and support, while steering committee provides broader planning, coordination, communications, and follow-up, full group events
- continue to build a structure for action that includes town committees, a communications strategy, and coordination with Sue Ford's state-wide programs -- there was considerable discussion of "structure" for broad action ahead; the topic will continue to evolve.
- continue to provide resources, links to important information, issue papers, actions needed, etc.
- continue to provide food

- complete before 6:30pm if possible, with event span NTE 90 minutes.
- improve our technology (social media), amplification for speakers, data bases, etc.
- consider allocating funds for renting halls and related event support to reduce planning and staging time
- provide short write-up/presentation on the NGCDems, our history, services, "Bedrock" campaign, and event goals -- as appropriate at various events. Get our name out; don't be shy. (*Nancy and Carl will draft something based on the "Bedrock" campaign letter.*)

In addition to these points the group had the following comments regarding the February 12th event.

Objective: Engage and enlist participants in developing their issue-oriented follow up actions. Note and channel energy from Jan.29th event. Stress individual and small group action on issues and explain structure and roles for steering committee and individual groups. Identify sources of information, assistance.

Format: *Susan* Introduce and talk about March 19th Caucuses and Town Committees, *Chuck* run quick workshop emphasizing group development of action plans, identify point persons and immediate follow-up actions, commit. (Chuck distributed handouts for discussion). Chuck has table charts and work set-ups.

Food: *Betsey Phillips* will get pizza; Nancy Martland will provide drinks; Susan Moore plates, etc.

Other: Room set-up - *Nancy* will check tables, chairs, set-up at Crapo, arranging for janitor support (\$c.100 authorized), plans for day care, etc. with help from others as she decides. Suggestion that microphone be available, that host m/c be centered on long axis opposite meeting room stairwell entrance.

### 3. March 19th Town Caucuses.

Susan and Sue Ford will announce and explain these at the 2/12 event. Locations, times TBD. Important to appoint slates for each town and establish network.

### 4. Other.

- Need to explore *types of amplification* and invest. *Nancy* exploring the matter. Steve Dinazio (sp.?), Mary Lou Kranbeer, Chris Jensen mentioned as perhaps having ideas.
- Website? - We can link to Grafton County Dems. Options and any investment need further study. *Susan is identifying a small group of people with tech skills.*
- Future event spaces - need to explore many options in region, costs, capacities, etc. and perhaps decide on regular rental as events justify. *Nancy, Susan, Claire, Jim Forrest* to discuss, explore possibilities. (Mentioned: Littleton Epis. Church, Franconia Best Western, East Gate, 2016 Campaign Office, Sugar Hill Wedding Barn, Boys & Girls Club, Bethlehem hotel and country club venues, etc.)

The meeting adjourned at 1:15. Douglas Evelyn, Sec'y.