

NORTHERN GRAFTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS STEERING COMMITTEE
April 5, 2017

The meeting of the "extended" steering committee -- including NGCD officers, town committee chairs, officials and committed leaders -- was held at Woodsville Savings Bank, Franconia at 5:15 pm. Present were: Jessica Abdallah-Goldberg, Deborah Bassett, Rob Constantine, Doug Evelyn, Susan Moore, Don Perlee, Betsey Phillips, Linda Robinson, Katherine Terrie, John Vail.

1. Financial Report -

In the absence of the Treasurer, Carl Martland, the chair reported a balance of \$3,417 as of February 6, 2017.

2. Issue Groups -

The assembled agreed that the issue groups are important to build involvement, enlist new participants and keep pressure on legislators, etc. and that it's important to focus on NH connections where possible. Sue Ford's newsletter is helpful, good to put on our website and promote its use. We think monthly meetings unnecessary and complicated logistically, but **will gather groups before and after the summer (May 21/June 4 TBD and Sept 10/17 TBD) to plan and check progress.** We need to keep younger participants involved. NGCDems need to focus on business agenda, key events (JFK BBQ, etc.), and support activities, but we can help promote, communicate, and connect issue groups. Issue groups ideally should drive themselves.

Question was raised on how we measure success of issue groups. Susan circulated follow-up email request for comments on this issue, but consensus was that the involvement of new participants and their ongoing interest was important in itself and that those who are engaged will be easier to enlist for future election activities and advocacy. **Susan and Betsey** will meet with Chuck and Mary Lou K to discuss approaches to guide the issue group leaders.

Specific Issue Group Actions included:

John V and Jess A-G will work on planning an information meeting to take place at Franconia Community Church - topic Immigration or LGBTQ.

Healthcare Group - Agreed need to keep pressure on regarding Medicaid expansion in NH.

Immigration - Churches in NH are working on this - See 4/5/17 article in the Union Leader <http://www.unionleader.com/social-issues/NH-churches-community-groups-plan-response-to-ICE-efforts-040520167>; Deb Bassett et al meeting with Franconia Police Chief to ask about his positions vis a vis the ACLU's 9-points. (Done)

3. Logistics - Issues & Decisions

Website:

Deb Bassett and Linda Robinson reported on the website project. **Following are Susan's notes of the discussion and actions already taken or decided since the meeting:**

We will move forward with the website. Tech team to do preliminary work and give an estimate by early May of what can be ready when. There will be a version of the site that can be reviewed and okayed by the steering committee before it goes live. Provide some announcement about the status at the May/June large meeting.

Website name - Done! -name chosen is NorthernGraftonDemocrats.org

We will establish an **email address** of info@....

Statement of Who We Are - Susan's version accepted:

"The Northern Grafton County Democrats organization is comprised of Democrats from twelve New Hampshire towns in Grafton County: Bath, Benton, Bethlehem, Easton, Franconia, Haverhill, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, and Sugar Hill. These towns form all or part of the following New Hampshire State Legislative Districts: Grafton 01, 02, 03, and Grafton Floterial Districts 14 and 15. These towns are also part of New Hampshire State Senate Districts 01 and 02."

We will add an explanation of "floterial" in a FAQ section of the website. Use maps to show which towns are in which districts.

Mission Statement - Chose version based on the Plymouth Area Democrats mission statement:

"NGCD mission: to promote the core values of the Democratic Party; educate our members and the public regarding local, state and national issues; recruit and support candidates for election to public office; and coordinate and foster relationships with other members and affiliates of the New Hampshire Democratic Party."

Website Registration and hosting fees - Susan will pay for 36 months on her cc and bill NGCD. **-Done!** She will pay the \$15.99 annual hosting fee also.

Logo - Need better version. **Susan** to send TIF to Deb, and contact Bill Freeland if that one doesn't work. **Done! - the TIF worked for Deb**

PO Box - We will get a small box at Franconia Post Office - Cost is \$52/year for small one. **Susan** will establish it. **Susan, Betsey, Claire or Carl** can pick up the mail.

Fundraising - we need to have a link on the website for online contributions. [Don suggested something that the banks provide. NHDP encourages the use of ACTBlue. Even though the latter has a fee, it might be the better solution because it automatically captures the data we need to report to the Secretary of State's Office periodically.] TBD.

Fundraising envelopes - move forward with 500 - Susan to **check cost if we use color donkey.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. Douglas Evelyn, Secretary.