



December 12, 2016 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, New York

Present: Roland Graves (ED 1); Christine Kenefick and Thomas Coffey (ED 2); Pam Robbins (ED 3); Cara Brousseau (ED 4); Reed Ference and William Reinhardt (ED 5); Jay Hurewitz and Peter Hackman (ED 6); Mark Becker and Jeff Baker (ED 7); Matt Meyer (ED 8); Pam Skripak and George Harder (ED 9); Maureen Cunningham (ED 10); Emily Saunders (ED 11); Jeff Kuhn and Amy Conway (ED 13); Tim Beebe (ED 14); Rose Ann Garry and Chanson Noether (ED 15); Leo Dorsey (ED 17); Giles Wagoner (ED 18); Bruce Bushart (ED 20); Amy Joyce and Matt Clyne (ED 21); Jan Messina (ED 22); Anne Furman (ED 23); Jim Schwab (ED 24); Wendy Jordan and Dan Coffey (ED 25); Sean Raleigh (ED 26); Barbara Hogan (ED 27); Lou Picarazzi (ED 28); Gina Cocchiara (ED 29); Alicia Rooney (ED 30). (36 members present)

By Proxy: Jennifer Birn (ED 8); Joanne Cunningham (ED 12); Amy Conway (ED 13); Chanson Noether (ED 15); Frank Zeoli (ED 20); Suzy Sodergren (ED 22); Matt Miller (ED 28); Jen White (ED 29); John Sherman (ED 30). (10 members participated by proxy)

Absent (no proxy): Linda Miller (ED 10); Fern Whyland (ED 16); Patricia Flaherty (ED 19); Joann Dawson and Anne Furman (ED 23); John Robinson (ED 24); Gary Hallock (ED 26); David McGann (ED 27). (9 members were absent).

Guests Present: John Clarkson

Bethlehem “First Night”

Call to Order and Election of a New Secretary: Chair Jeff Kuhn called the meeting to order and Secretary Wendy Jordan confirmed that a quorum was present.

Jeff Kuhn explained that Wendy Jordan was stepping down from her position as secretary for family reasons. The BDC By-Laws provide, at Article VIII, Section 1(d), that the Chair appoints successor secretary in the event of a vacancy. However, he would prefer that the Committee elect a new secretary whom he would then appoint. According to the by-laws, the duties of the secretary are as follows:

“The Secretary shall verify that a quorum exists at each meeting of the Committee, shall record the minutes of all meetings, and shall make the minutes available to

Members of the Committee. The Secretary shall endeavor to provide such minutes in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting and shall post the same on the Committee's website. The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all Members of the Committee and election inspectors and shall keep all documents and records in a safe and suitable manner."

Article II, Section 6

Roseann Garry was nominated for the position of Secretary of the BDC, and her nomination was duly seconded. She was elected by voice vote of the membership, with one opposing vote. The new secretary assumed her new duties at the conclusion of the meeting.

Chair Report: 2016 Elections: The Chair then reviewed the outcome of the 2016 election and reported that there 24,651 registered voters in Bethlehem. Of those voters:

- 10,744 were Democrats (43%)
- 5,781 were Republicans (23%)
- 8,126 other party/no party (33%)

Bethlehem voters cast 18,485 ballots for the President of the United States (POTUS), representing 75% of voters registered in the town. Hillary Clinton received 61.5% of the votes cast in Bethlehem, which exceeded her share of the vote in both Albany County and New York State as a whole (58.8%).

In the Town Board race, Giles Wagoner secured 56.75% of the vote, the highest proportion for a Democratic candidate since at least 2005. His Republican opponent had 36.83% of the vote. This was the first time in the last eleven years that the Republican vote total for a Town Board seat was less than 41% . Roland Graves, running on a third-party line, received 6.35% of the vote.

Other local Democratic candidates also did very well, securing 68% (Congressman Tonko and State Senator Breslin) to 70% of the votes cast (Assembly Member Fahey).

The Committee then engaged in an extended discussion of the election of Donald Trump and Republican control of both houses of Congress. Some of the most frequent comments included:

- General surprise at the election results ("what could we have done to see the coming of Trump?") and at the amount of support Trump received;
- The need to gain a better understanding of differing attitudes in our community on a variety of issues, including general uneasiness with the pace and degree of change within the town ("people are upset about the acceleration of development, about all the trees that are being removed and how the town is changing". "We need to do a better job of gathering

information on what issues people are thinking about in non-election years”).

- Many people, including several present at the meeting, were afraid of what a Trump presidency will mean for them personally. (“We need to do a better job of reaching out to those frightened people”).
- ___ Noted the surge of involvement in active resistance to Trump and his policies, and stated that many individuals who were not involved previously are now activists.
- Raised questions about “what productive things can we do locally?”, “how do we take advantage of the momentum that will come out of events such as the Women’s March?”, “should we support events like a voter registration drive?” and “how do we turn all this energy towards positive action?”

During this discussion, Maureen Cunningham described the origins and activities of a group called “Pantsuits Nation”. There was also consideration of whether BDC should sponsor a bus to the Women’s March or provide financial support to individuals who would like to attend that event but who couldn’t afford the expense. It was eventually decided that those BDC members who wished to participate would meet separately to explore the costs of such sponsorship, potential liability issues related to chartering a bus and how BDC could work with other groups which are interested in resisting the policies of the new administration.

2017 Outlook: The Chair then reviewed the 2017 election outlook, noting that elections would be held for the following offices:

Bethlehem Town Supervisor (Clarkson)
Two Town Board Seats (Waggoner and Sasso)
Highway Superintendent (Meredith)
Town Clerk (Moquin)
Town Justice (Kirby)
County Legislator – District 38 (?)

It was expected that the county legislator position for District 38 would become vacant shortly due to the expected resignation of Mike Mackey.

Jeff Kuhn also described efforts underway to improve the legislative re-districting process in Albany County. The County has been successfully sued three times in thirty years because of deficiencies in the current process. The most recent lawsuit cost County taxpayers \$1.7 million. Jeff announced that a public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th on two competing proposed Local Laws to change how redistricting would be done going forward. The hearing will be held at 7:15 pm in the Albany County Courthouse on Eagle Street (entrance on Lodge Street) in the Legislative Chambers on the second floor. Joanne Cunningham committed to

providing members of the BDC with a side-by-side comparison of the two active redistricting proposals.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Bushart reviewed the Committee's finances for the period from September 22, 2016 to December 6, 2016. The balance in the Committee's account is \$7,827.63, which reflected deposits of \$4,781 and expenditures of \$5,529.70 to an opening balance of \$8,576.33. Significant deposits included the proceeds from the Octoberfest fundraiser while significant expenditures included the costs of Octoberfest, a donation to the Tri-Village Little League, membership dues for the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and election costs (Hillary signs, Our Town ad and donation to Friends of Giles Waggoner). During discussion, the question of whether BDC provides financial support to the Albany County Democratic Committee was raised. Dan Coffey replied that the BDC generally purchases an ad for the ACDC fundraiser.

Committee Reports:

Operations: Pam Skripak thanked members for picking up the vote tallies on election night, and reported that 12 people attended the class on petitioning, which also oriented new members to the history and structure of the ACDC, its relationship to the BDC, the BDC's committee structure, etc. She mentioned that the committee may hold a series of "listening sessions" at various locations within the town to hear the concerns and suggestions of town residents.

Fundraising: Dan Coffey reminded the membership that our Taste of Bethlehem event, the Committee's major fund raising effort, would be held in the spring, while a bar-b-que would be scheduled for this summer.

Personnel: Members were reminded to provide updated contact information if their email addresses, phone numbers, etc., should change.

Communications: In the coming months this committee will review and if necessary update the BDC's web page and Facebook page and develop a proposal on how we can make more effective use of social media such as Twitter.

Community Service: Matt Miller volunteered to chair this standing committee.

Housekeeping Issues and Announcements: A motion to approve the minutes of the Committee's previous meeting on September 22, 2016 was made, seconded and approved. The following events were announced:

ACDC Chairman's Fundraiser – Wednesday, December 14 at 8:00 a.m. at the Desmond Hotel (660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany) -- \$250
Holiday Mixer/Libations at O'Slattery's immediately after this meeting!

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Treasurer's Report

**BETHLEHEM DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE – 12/12/16 meeting Treasurer’s
Report (9/23/16 – 12/12/16) – Final**

TD Bank balance 9/22/16-last meeting	8576.33
Deposits (9/23/16 – 12/12/16)	4781.00
Expenditures (9/23/16 – 12/12/16)	5529.70
TD Balance 12/12/16	7827.63

- ❖ **Un-cashed checks: ROUX \$496.37; Tri-Village Little League \$170**
- ❖ **Deposits: Oktoberfest ‘16**
- ❖ **Expenditures: Oktoberfest Twisted Vine - \$1690.47; Friends of Giles Wagoner - \$2738.21; ROUX; Our Town publishing ; Bethlehem Chamber 2017 dues; Hillary Signs; TVLL;**
- ❖ **Necessary reports have been filed with the NYSBOE**
 - o **You may view BOE reports for BDC using the following steps:**
 - 1) enter www.elections.ny.gov in your browser; 2) go to Campaign Finance; 3) go to View Disclosure Reports; 4) go to 3rd option – View Candidate or Committee by filer ID (C20889); 5) enter filer ID and select schedule(s) you wish to view. In addition, there are very patient NYSBOE staff at 1 800 458-3453 that will assist if needed.**
 - o **All BDC revenue and expenses are also tracked in a BDC maintained EXCEL chart available to any interested Committee person.**

Octoberfest Financial Summary

Oktoberfest '16			Oktoberfest '15	
Revenue	4781.00		5890.00	
Expenses	2005.65	Twisted Vine, name tags, Our Towne ad	1302.10	Postage, Swiftys, band
Net	2775.35		4587.90	

APPENDIX A

Members of the Bethlehem Democratic Committee 2016 - 2018

1. Jacquelyn Green & Roland Graves
2. Christine Kenefick & Thomas Coffey
3. Midge Bulgaro & Pam Robbins
4. Heather Spitzberg & Cara Brousseau
5. Reed Ferrence & Bill Reinhardt
6. Jay Hurwitz & Peter Hackman
7. Mark Becker & Jeff Baker
8. Jennifer Birn & Matt Meyer
9. Pam Skripak & George Harder
10. Maureen Cunningham & Linda Miller
11. Emily Saunders & Steve Grasso
12. Joanne Cunningham & Kent Sopris
13. Amy Conway & Jeff Kuhn
14. Tim Beebe & Matt Barron
15. Roseann Garry & Chan Noether
16. Rudy Arias & Fern Whyland
17. Pat Dorsey & Deborah Stevens
18. Richard Picarazzi & Giles Wagoner
19. Trish Flaherty & Michelle Saunders
20. Bruce Bushart & Frank Zeoli
21. Amy Joyce & Matt Clyne
22. Jan Messina & Suzy Sodergren
23. Anne Furman & Joann Dawson
24. John Robinson & Jim Schwab
25. Wendy Jordan & Dan Coffey
26. Gary Hallock & Sean Raleigh
27. Barbara Hogan & Dave McGann
28. Matt Miller & Lou Picarazzi
29. Gina Cocchiara & Jen White
30. John Sherman & Alicia Roney