

ROCKPORT DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE MEETING

11 March 2023

Hybrid Meeting @ 10 a.m.

In-person at Rockport Public Library and Zoom (recorded)

Members Present:

IP=in-person; Z=zoom; A=absent

	Member		Member		Member		Member
A	Naomi Foster	A	Lynn Chambers	IP	Sally Grimes	Z	Elizabeth Moulton
IP	Barbara Gavin	A	Shirley Conway	IP	Ann-Patrice Hickey	IP	Nathaniel Mulcahy
IP	David Kaplan	IP	Mary Jo Curley	A	June Michaels	IP	Mary Alice Price
A	Lorri Legacy	z	Christine Downing	A	Tom Mikus	IP	Jessica Mulcahy
A	Diane Vella	A	Suellen Wedmore	A	Heidi Caswell Zander	Z	Kathleen O'Neil
IP	David Wise	IP	Maureen Dwinell				

Welcome and Call to Order: Chair Nat Mulcahy welcomed the group and called the meeting to order @ 10:02am

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report: Minutes were not sent out from the 17th December 2022 meeting. They will be sent out along with the minutes from today's meeting.

Treasurer's Report: June is attending the League of Women's Voters this morning and asked the Chair to read the Treasurer's Report. Reminder that dues are due. Chair will cover dues for any youth member. We started 2023 with 2014.21. Added to that from dues Collected \$AMT from six members and \$150.00 from gifts. We have currently have 2014.21 in the bank account. Headquarters in Gloucester. Dave move to accept report. Ann Patrice seconded. Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

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General Meeting

Guest Speaker: none

Chair spoke with Mary Francis. Her husband was hospitalized and they are in the process of moving to MD. She thanks the group for the gesture of honoring her years of service but is currently taking care of her husband full time. Let's find a nice way of thanking her.

Sally: Mary is my neighbor, two houses from me. I'm not sure how she will pack and move any time soon. If things go okay, she could gather this group in her back yard and/or deck and maybe she could walk down to celebrate. David has a suggestion—the best way to thank her is to offer her assistance we can in moving. Really whatever assistance she would like. Jessica can write down a list of things she can chose from and add to. The offer of help is not limited to what is on the list. But the list is a place to start. Make clear that she is encouraged to ask for anything and everything. Ann Patrice: Care pages. She may already have one. Decision: a small group will meet after the meeting to sort it out.

Ann Patrice: Presentation

Difference between general national politics (very party oriented) and our local system which is not party oriented. Getting things done in town requires working with people not in our party. Good examples lately. Issues (climate change) as an example. The Rockport Climate Action Group has formed. Not a Democratic party oriented. Important to be clear. We cannot endorse a local candidate but we can hear from anyone running for office about how they might be meeting the goals of our party. We are not prevented from taking part in local politics. A great tradition of working across parties (pier for the fisherman) in this town. We don't want to lose our allies because we are part of a party. There is a meeting after this on affordable housing. To get things done in town you have to work through our town government—through town meeting. Thank you to all have been working through our town government.

Barbara: thank you Ann Patrice for your articulate emails and the time you have put into doing what you are espousing.

Fliers on the affordable housing forum with the zoom link

Open Discussion:

Chair: Local Elections

March 21st is the final day for submitting signatures for running for office in Rockport. Can't elect change if the same people are elected over and over. There is one opening on the Planning Board. Encourage people you know to run.

David: Who is the incumbent?

Group: Unclear

Chair: Has asked Kate Ranta to run. If you have any suggestions please encourage them to run. For the Select Board, there are two vacancies and four people who have pulled papers. Are there people we can encourage to run who are pro-climate, pro-affordable housing, etc. For inclusivity.

David: Who are people up for re-election?

Ann Patrice: Paul Murphy and Ross Bracket. Ross has pulled papers and returned them.

Chair: There are two positions on the school committee and there is no one who has pulled papers. Can we try to find people who believe in inclusion and education to run? We have to elect them and find candidates.

Sally: Let's plan now or a week or two to have a forum to hear from people.

Chair: Happy to plan the forums for Planning Board, School Board, and Selectman. But we can't have the forums until the 21st. There are two issues. One, get the forum planned. Two, get people to run that share our interests. Does anyone you know who comes to mind who would be an asset to our community?

David: Bob Simmons. He lives in Rockport. He could be running for something already. He's very climate aware. I think he would be a good choice for Selectman. If he's not thinking about it. David will talk with him.

Bob Simmons is already on the Planning Board.

Sally: Both she and her husband served on the school board. Will never forget it. It was good and bad. Maybe Dave Delaney would do it again. Maybe do a push on social media. I don't know what's going on in town all the time. Because not on social media or get the paper.

Planning for the Forums

Chair will reach out to the candidates on March 21st to invite to forums. Holding them on weekday evenings was easiest to schedule. Starting as soon after the 21st would be great.

Ann Patrice: The forums will be after town meeting so that we have that in our rear view mirror.

Sally: Ask that someone who is more tech savvy than I to make a splash on social media to say we need more people to run.

Planning the next meeting. April 8th 2023

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 1045 was made by , Ann Patrice seconded by David Kaplan

Next RDTC Meeting: Our next hybrid meeting will occur on 8 April 2023 at 10:00am in the Peggy Brenner Room of the Rockport Public Library and on Zoom. The Zoom link will be available the day of the meeting @ <https://rockportdems.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Mulcahy, Secretary