

Oxford Hills Dems April 18, Meeting Report

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm. Attendance: Mark James, Helene Ragovin James, Misty Yates, Pat Shearman, Azelea Cormier, Clinton Jones, Donna McCarragher (chair) via Zoom, Carol Rotheberg via Zoom, Judy Green (treasurer), Skipp Green, Dixie Waisanen, Janet Jamison

(Oxford Dems T-shirts were available on the table before the meeting)

Vice Chair Mark James convened the meeting. Helene Ragovin James took notes as secretary.

Events planning:

Donna informed us we are already signed up for the Waterford fair, July 17-19. Will sign up for Oxford County Fair, Sept. 16-19. Haven't heard back yet from Norway Arts Festival. Was denied spot at West Paris Old Home Days because political groups not accepted. Will participate in Waterford 4th of July parade.

Will coordinate with other Oxford County Dem areas, to both volunteer at their events—such as Fryeburg Fair—and to have them help at our events. Attendees were urged to submit info to Mark on events they may know about, for calendar etc.

There will be a Meet the Candidates event at Camp Wigwam, May 16, 2 pm, with Chris Easton, who is running for HD 81, and Beth Bosworth, running for Senate District 18; probably others. Clint will be cooking.

If we're having an event outside the Norway office, and want to get Zoom, we have two little speakers available. For really big events, maybe we can have two laptops. There was discussion about whether it would be too expensive to have an Owl speaker.

Mark made pitch for donations, and noted there are printouts available with QR codes for Act Blue. Judy noted that she had received several more donations.

Pat noted that Janet's campaign for county commissioner district 3 will soon be on Act Blue. Discussion about candidates getting out; knocking on doors; getting House and Senate candidates out to with other candidates.

WIFI at Norway Office

Discussion of WIFI troubles in Norway office; significant issues with people losing WIFI. Mark will bring up with Zizi, manager from Fare Share. Discussion of possible equipment that could help, or reaching out to Spectrum. Reminder that the lamp over the sink in the common area needs to be turned on for second-floor router to work [Mark: note that this access point appears to be gone now. I have emailed ZiZi with our concerns]

Report from County Committee Meeting, April 12, Paris Fire Department

About 50 people attended. Two breakout groups there, events and comms. Clint reported from the events breakout. Everybody is gathering information, questions because there is no central location to send info to. Spent time getting to know each other, exchanging info.

There will be a large sign-building activity at Dixie's barn on April 28 starting at 10 am; 3 Foster Ave, Waterford. To run all day. Clint will bring food. Supplies will be delivered ahead of time.

There is an OXDems google workspace; would be good for information sharing. Need to get password.

Karen Cummings from the Southwest Oxford group has asked for events to be sent to the swoxdems email address for updating public calendar on website. We also need operational calendar for event info before it's ready for public calendar.

The Comms group will be having meeting on Sunday, April 19 at noon in Norway office and also on Zoom; run by Dan from Southwest group. Meeting scheduled for four hours but hope it can move rapidly. Goal is to develop structure for whom to reach out to when something needs to be done. Idea is three-person, possibly plus secretary, each person responsible for given area including mail chimp and web content. Through end of year Mark continue as website admin. Big need for additional people to develop content. Discussion about need for new people to get involved with these positions and keep pipeline going for future.

Discussion about how having Dems in elected office in Oxford County would help provide a following; more participation. Problems with caucus model and other organizing issues. Comms as full-time commitment—too much for volunteer position. How to take small bites out of larger tasks; possible stipends? Need someone to recruit new people and organize—who would manage?

Most urgent to address is mail chimp and comms for mass mailings; info cannot be properly distributed on the fly. Need someone to come up with messaging, and art, that require bit of time to be effective. Bethel has person working on mail chimp; need to clarify. One person responsible for managing content.

State charter

Today (April 18) was last day to vote on amendments to state charter. Considerable confusion about why people were not able to register online as delegates; changes to platform; very hard to understand state Dem website.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, May 20, 6 pm, in Norway.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58.

Respectfully submitted, Helene Ragovin James