

Perry County Democrats Meeting
Minutes 9-17-20

Attendees:

Melanie Wertz	Jerry Philpott
Emily Burt-Hedrick	Mary Colledge
Elaine Doran	Bill Bricker
Rick Ney	Kim Ney
Gwen Soult	Jacob Zentichko
Karen Anderson	Barb Hensch
Cindy Naylor	Steve Naylor
Jonas Stoltzfus	Daniel Powers
Cindy Roney	Ann Miller

(Names of attendees from Attendance list. I am not sure all signed in.)

Meeting was held at Penn State Extension building in New Bloomfield.

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Melanie Wertz.

Melanie introduced Danny Powers of the PA Democratic Committee, who is a field organizer for the state party. Danny discussed his mission of voter outreach, phone banks, and empowering us to be voices in our community. He will get out Vote-by-mail information to us. He will coordinate phone banks with the George Scott campaign committee. He emphasized that YARD SIGNS are important in Rural PA—they MATTER! Our voices matter.

Karen Anderson pointed out that a final decision was released today (9-17-20) by the PA State Supreme Court, on Mail-in ballot rules. Danny will let us know when the ballots will be going out.

Melanie then welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all attendees introduced themselves, since there were a number of new people attending.

August meeting Minutes had been sent out by Jacob Z; they were attached to the email invitation to the meeting.

A motion to approve minutes was made by Karen Anderson, and seconded by Jerry Philpott. Unanimous vote to approve minutes from August meeting. Several attendees thanked Melanie for hosting the outdoor meeting at her home last month.

Jerry Philpott, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer report. The Committee has \$1382.15 in the bank. He said that he will need an invoice in order to pay for the yard signs. He has also ordered new checks, since he is down to a single check. Melanie and Jerry had just received some new cash donations from yard signs, so that amount will be added in to the account.

Steve Naylor made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, and Elaine Doran seconded it. Unanimous vote to approve Treasurer's report.

Old Business: Melanie mentioned the plan to have a Blue Wave Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) event at River Bend in October. But due to the pandemic, River Bend only allows a maximum of 20 people inside their building. Given the cooler weather and lack of indoor space available, a decision was made not to hold the event. That was to be our 2020 Fundraising event. However, people have been donating to the committee to pay for signs, so that is our only fundraiser this year.

New Business:

- a. Melanie discussed a recent request she received from "Citizens Take Action", a group that is advocating for campaign finance reform, including a Constitutional Amendment, "Restore Democracy Amendment". Citizens Take Action is looking for Democratic committee endorsements for their project, which is a long-range project, not something that must be accomplished by November. A copy of the information about this will be attached to the minutes for all members to review and consider, so that it can be discussed at the October meeting.
- b. Jeff Kirkhoff, of the Duncannon Borough Council, is looking for a Duncannon Borough resident to serve on the council. If you know of anyone who is a Duncannon borough resident who might be interested please let Melanie know, so that she can pass that info on to Jeff.
- c. The PeCo Democratic Committee has a post office box in Shermansdale Post office. It costs about \$60/year. Helen Michener, former secretary,

used to check it once a month. Jerry Philpott said that it used to be in the New Bloomfield PO. It always contained a lot of junk mail that needed to be sorted from the legitimate mail. Jerry said that the Bank Statements for the committee are sent directly to Jerry's post office box. Jerry then offered the use of his Post Office box to receive the committee's mail. Karen Anderson made a motion, Mary Colledge seconded it, to move the P.O. box from Shermansdale to Jerry's box in Duncannon. In discussion, it was suggested that we immediately put the new P.O. Box address on the PeCo Democratic committee website, and then do a change of Address form with the Shermansdale PO to have the mail forwarded. Unanimous vote by all to approved this change in the PO box.

Steve Naylor volunteered to check the Shermansdale PO box until the end of the year. Emily Burt-Hedrick volunteered to go to the Shermansdale PO to fill out the Change of Address form and submit it.

d. Elections of Officers.

- i. Emily Burt-Hedrick has volunteered to be committee secretary. But in order to serve, she must be appointed as a committee member from her township. Jerry Philpott moved to appoint Emily as a Spring Township committee member. Mary Colledge seconded that motion. Unanimous vote to approve.

- ii. Nominations taken for position of Secretary and for Chairperson.

Emily Burt-Hedrick nominated to be committee Secretary. No other nominations.

Jacob Zentichko was nominated to be Committee Chairperson.

No other nominations.

Unanimous consent by all attendees to appoint Jacob as Chairperson and Emily as Secretary of the committee.

Meeting was then turned over to Jacob, to lead as new Chairperson. Melanie will assist Jacob in the next few months, but warned all that she is having knee surgery next month.

Campaigns:

George Scott will be attending the PeCo Democratic Committee meeting next month, Oct 15, 2020, at 6:30 PM. The location of the next meeting has yet to be determined.

It was noted that we will not win a Democratic majority vote in Perry County, but we just have to lose by less than we lost for Rob Teplitz. It is expected that George Scott will win in Harrisburg, so Perry County turnout for George Scott can tip the balance to his win of the State Senate seat. Word of mouth about him is very important.

Phone calls to Democratic and Independent voters will be very important during this COVID 19 pandemic. People will be home more than before. Use of post cards is less important than phone calls.

Volunteers will be needed on Election Day, Nov 3, 2020.

Jacob will contact Bonnie Delancy, in the County Election office, and he will put together a volunteer list. Melanie noted that she has already a lot of volunteers from the Primary election who also wish to serve for the General Election. She has a list of those.

Melanie mentioned that we got a lot of Biden-Harris signs, and many have been handed out already. Attendees to the meeting took signs to post.

Jacob said that he is waiting for Biden and Josh Shapiro (Attorney General) signs, and will follow up the end of this week.

Jerry Philpott asked if we had gotten a bill for the signs yet. Jacob said no bill yet, but he will wait till all signs are received, then submit a request for reimbursement to the Treasurer.

Melanie said that she has a "self serve" set up at her home for signs. There is a sign-out sheet and a coffee can for donations.

Do we need Biden Signs for each polling place? Typically they are put out the night before the election (evening of Nov 2). Barb Hensch should take a bunch of signs to put in Western Perry Cty precincts.

For future Committee meetings, Jacob wants to LiveStream the meetings, starting with the next meeting. We will need to meet in a place with WIFI. Right now our options include:

- a. Commissioners' room in Veteran's Building—max 12 people in person
- b. Courthouse—maybe max of 40 people (TBD)
- c. Extension office –max 22 people.

Melanie will work on setting location for Oct 15 meeting.

Steve Naylor asked Jacob to get the Names and Addresses of our new chairperson and secretary to Bonnie Delancy tomorrow (Friday 9/18).

We need Committee Members for each Township. Several attendees volunteered to be committee members for their townships:

- a. Rick Ney will be Saville Twp committee members
- b. Jonas Stoltzful will be Southwest Madison Twp committee member
- c. Gwen Soult will be Oliver Twp committee member
- d. Ann Miller and Jerry Philpott will be Wheatfield Twp committee members
- e. Cindy Roney will be Center Twp committee member
- f. Elaine Doran will be Caroll Twp committee member

Steve Naylor made a motion, seconded by Karen Anderson, to accept all volunteers as new committee members.

Unanimous vote by all present to accept these appointments to the Committee.

Meeting was adjourned by Jacob at 7:29 PM

Next Meeting Thursday Oct 15, 6:30 PM. Location to be determined, and all will be notified in advance.

