

Perry County Democrats Meeting Minutes – 6/18/20

Call to order by Chair Mark Whitmoyer

Attending via Zoom: Elaine Doran, Jacob Zentichko, Melanie Wertz; Jerry Philpott, Kirk Hench, Sondra Hench, Evelyn D'Elia, Ann Miller, Alane Balchunas, Susan Washinger, Bruce Carriker, George Scott

Minutes of May 21, 2020 distributed by email ...motion to approve as presented by Jerry Philpott; second by Kirk Hench; motion carried

Treasurer's Report: Jerry reported no change from last month...\$2582.07. Assumes there will be a few cents interest when statement comes.

Old Business:

1. **Events** scheduled:
 - a. The Perry County Fair - August 18-22, 2020 – has been cancelled.
 - b. Our August Committee meeting was moved to August 13, due to the Fair. Due to no fair approved to return to August 20th.
 - c. Our **Picnic** is scheduled for August 29th at 5:00PM at Lupfer's Grove. Plan at present is to go ahead and will evaluate at July meeting
 - d. Newport Canal days - keep open for possible attendance at present
 - e. Possible October "**Blue Wave**" GOTV event at River Bend – Sunday October 18th. Date is confirmed with River Bend...as with all events will need to evaluate closer to time for any changes.
2. At our February meeting Kathy reported that she has been trying to contact the new commissioners about explaining the new ballot procedures to the Senior Centers. She had no responses from them. Still no update available...Helen raised the issue that couldn't we approach the centers to share info re Vote by Mail...as non-partisan presenters? We will evaluate at next meeting re any in person presentations. Alane is a volunteer at the Marysville center...she will "test" the idea with their director.
3. Election night coverage for vote counting. Melanie did a great job organizing this and things went well... we did not get a printout of the final totals...per Bonnie it was not in the office when counting was done. ...Melanie checked with volunteers to see if anyone had them...no one did. It was the wish of the group for Melanie to approach Bonnie for a duplicate. It was noted that due to the potential increase in turnout for the general we will need more volunteers on November 3rd.
4. Democratic candidate to replace Judge Morrow who is retiring. Heather Kelly of Juniata County is interested. She will join us for our July meeting for Q & A

to help us decide whether to endorse her. Mark asked Jerry if he would lead the discussion at that meeting.

Website and Social Media Update – Jacob – discussion re email list. Jacob feels the list is complete...for some reason folks are getting them in their spam...it was noted that as we continue Zoom meetings we might post the meeting on FB with addendum for folks to RSVP for meeting link.

New Business

1. 2020 Candidates and Campaigns –

- a. George Scott gave an update from the primary...Thanking everyone for all their help...noting Vote by Mail had a huge response in Dauphin county...not as many for Perry. Noticed at Perry polling stations the majority of workers were not masked...many signs for the Republican candidates...his were missing...and replaced. He recommended we might want to have “poll Watchers” for the general election due to the degree of voter suppression by the “R’s”. Discussion re Meet and Greets “virtually” until in person can be done...noted the current rallies and demonstrations might be a great place to do voter registration either by paper or on smart phones. Melanie volunteered to do this at the upcoming rally in New Bloomfield 6/19. Discussed that there might be changes to the election process in Fall to handle the anticipated mail-in ballots such as an earlier cut off date for return as well as starting to count earlier.
 - b. The Scott campaign was able to use texts/ phone banking effectively during this primary election...hoping to be able to expand to more in person contact. While it will be a coordinated campaign with the state, his campaign is moving ahead with their plans. Mark noted for November, George Scott will be our main focus together with the all-important Presidential election.
 - c. Given the reality of the pandemic we need to work on encouraging voting by mail.
 - d. Phone calls and texting are the best remaining campaign options. Mark will connect with George Scott campaign re their options used to contact voters.
 - e. Melanie and Mark both have **George Scott** signs for folks to put up.
 - f. Maybe we will be able to hold some in person “meet-and-greet house parties” in the Fall if conditions permit.
2. We have been contacted by the **Lee Griffin** campaign. Lee is our candidate for US House of Representatives, Pennsylvania's 12th District. They would like to have a virtual “meet-and-greet” on July 30th from 7:00 to 8:00. We will confirm this with the campaign.
 3. Mifflin County has contacted us re participating in a digital billboard on 322 near Newport. Cost is \$375 for 3 months...per Theresa Hobbs. Discussion followed re more info re text...verify cost...contract requirements, etc. Mark will contact Theresa.

Motion made by Jerry Philpott to authorize Mark to spend up to \$375 for billboard.;
Second by Elaine Doran; motion carried.

Next meeting – July 16, 2020 6:30 PM in the Veterans Memorial building, if possible, or
again by Zoom.

Adjourn