**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PELHAM DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**FEB. 7, 2019**

Roll was called at 8:00 PM. Present were: Marin Zielinski (Chair), John Calvelli, Seth Cohn, Aileen Dose, Ed Doty, Jennie Driesen, Karen Gardner, Peter Hoffmann, Maryanne Joyce, Eileen Madden, Mariette Morrissey, Toby Marxuach-Gusciora, Liz Massie, Kate Pringle. Minutes of January meeting were approved.

Marin shared that she had received an updated number on the weight of Pelham’s vote in Westchester County: 1.4%. She promised to email the full breakdown to the Committee after the meeting. She also reiterated the ongoing opening for a District Leader in D1, and encouraged people to spread the word.

Madeline Bryce, a senior at the high school, was introduced; she’ll be working with the Committee later this year as part of the school’s WISE program. Madeline will focus on helping to canvass, with the goal of persuading 10 Pelham residents to change their voting status on behalf of Democrats (either by registering, changing party to Dem, or voting when in the past they have not). Additionally, Madeline will create a program to reach out to people moving in to Pelham. Mariette will coordinate with Madeline.

Aileen reported that the PDC treasury currently has $3060 and $500 of that is earmarked for the Schwerner Award.

Toby noted an e-commerce fulfillment center is being planned for a site that covers part of the Bronx, Mount Vernon and Pelham Manor. This was to be discussed at the meeting of the Pelham Manor Board of Trustees meeting.

The criteria for the Schwerner scholarship were reviewed. Rachel Cullen, who is working with the Committee on the submissions, is in touch with the high school and will update us when the application period opens.

Plans for the Village elections on March 19 were discussed. The Committee reiterated support for the VoP Democratic slate: Chance Mullen (Mayor), and Mike Carpenter, Lisa Hill-Ries, and Ariel Spira-Cohen (Trustees). These candidates will also be running on the Pelham Forward line. Campaign manager Aileen Dose estimated campaign expenses at around $3000, with a more specific breakdown to come. There are no Democratic candidates on the ballot in Pelham Manor.

The Committee also discussed the survey, which has been considered for several months. The idea of personally surveying every Democrat was discarded as being unrealistically ambitious. Instead, every Committee member received a copy of the survey, and is encouraged to use it as they feel best, in their district (hand out, email out, discuss in person, leave behind with a stamped envelope, etc.).

Marin reported that the proposition to move the VoP election would not be on the ballot in March (NOTE: SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED—THE PROPOSITION IS ON THE BALLOT). Ed said in order for this voter initiative to appear on the PM ballot this fall, petitions would need to be circulated and submitted a minimum of three months before the election. Ed noted that there are arguments to be made on both sides for moving the elections.

Adam Kagan, running for Town Justice, gave an overview of the role of this office. He hopes to be able to focus gun ownership and telecommunication policies in Pelham.

The next meeting will be rescheduled from March 14 to an earlier date to allow sufficient time for campaigning prior to the March 19 election.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.