**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PELHAM DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**May 9, 2019**

Present: Marilyn Zielinski (Town Chair), Liz Massie (Village of Pelham Chair), Eileen Madden (Secretary), Toby Marxuach- Gusciora (Village of Pelham Manor Chair), Bill Bassell, Marc Burgess, Kristen Burke, Ed Doty, Julia Fuller, Peter Hoffmann, Maryanne Joyce, Romina Levy, Marietta Morrissey and Kate Pringle. Aileen Dose (Treasurer) was not present but had previously submitted her report. Seth Cohn, John Calvelli, Jennie Driesen and Tara Weishaupl were represented by proxy.

The minutes of the March Committee meeting were approved (there was no April meeting).

Marilyn updated us on the Westchester County judicial convention for Family and County Court seats and noted that the Democratic primary is June 25th.

Toby updated the Committee on the site being considered for development as an e-commerce distribution facility. About 75% of the site is in Pelham Manor and the rest in the Bronx. Storm water management and enforcement of truck routes are key issues to be considered.

Kristen gave an update on the Board of Education. The budget vote takes place on May 19 and there will also be a special vote on June 18 to determine whether the Board can purchase property adjacent to Colonial School that could be used for administration. She noted that no special bond would be needed since the $1.1 million needed is already available.

There was a general discussion of pedestrian safety in light of several recent accidents involving students walking to and from school. It was noted that Ariel Spira-Cohen is working on a Safe Streets plan as part of Sustainability Advisory Board initiative.

Russell Solomon was voted in as District Leader in District 1. A replacement for Jennnie Driesen as DL in District 5 is now needed.

Toby said that the winner of the Schwerner award had been picked and will be announced in June.

Kristen and Maura Curtin reported on their campaign for Town Board, including the possibility that they, and fellow Town candidate (for Town Justice) Adam Kagan, might gather the necessary signatures (approximately 265) to run on an independent line or Working Families party line. Ed stressed the importance of campaigning on town issues.

Student intern Madeleine Bryce discussed plans set up a program to engage new and current residents in the Democratic party, by mailing info to new Pelham residents. She offered several alternative approaches and agreed to return with additional information. The group discussed the possibility of having DLs send personal notes to new residents.

Lisa Tannenbaum reported on Eliot Engel’s successful efforts to pass legislation on drug pricing, organ donation and climate change in the House. Unfortunately, most, if not all of these bills will not be able to get through the Republican controlled Senate.

The group considered ideas for summer parties/fundraisers. No one volunteered to spearhead an event so no action was planned.

The meeting adjourned.