

Vermont Progressive Party State Committee Meeting May 18, 2019

Meeting attendees: Secretary Chris Brimmer, Assistant Chair Meg Polyte, Assistant and acting Treasurer Morgan Daybell. Coco members Barbra Prine, Adam Norton, Susan Hatch Davis; State Committee Members: Paul Fixx, Christian Hubbs, Ken Dial, Bill Colman, Traven Layshon, Cindy Weed,, Thomas Joseph, Rebecca Gordon, Laurel Stevens, Barry Kade, Tina Scanlon, JF Carter Neubieser, Burlington; Heather and Charles Juliussen-Stevenson, Rutland; Nick Clark, Norwich; Jeremy Hanson, Marjorie Power, Montpelier; George McNaughton, Ken Eardley, Underhill; Sandy Haas, David Marmor, Gail Poinsette, Leslie Matthews, Sandy Hyde, Party Director Josh W Intern Olivia Brimmer. Guest speaker Kevin Gieger.

1) Meg opened at 1:10 PM.

2) March election update. Burlington elections included a pick up of two seats, big organizing beats big money. There is power in door knocking.

3) Panel discussion featuring Kevin Geiger regional planner, Seline Coburn, Robin Chestnut Tangerman Vermont House, Maggie Fridleman of the Sunrise Movement, Ken Dial Selectboard Brandon. Discussion of efforts at various levels to work for climate change policy within the framework of economic justice. Take aways:

- We need to listen, become solution based to address specific concerns;
- Even with the super majority there is fear to stand up for climate issues in the Legislature, kind of chalked up to the aging of membership;
- Local action is as important as higher level actions;
- Direct pressure on legislators from their constituents is very effective.

4) Martha Abbott sent a letter, apologizing for not being here but made the point that we have exciting opportunities and this is a time for growth. A plea for candidates, activists and volunteers. We need people at the capital Please become a sustaining donor.

5) Broke into regional groups. Events reported back for Chittenden County 2 nights of phone banking to tell voters how their rep voted on minimum wage, a listening tour doing canvassing and tell people who we are and work harder on establishing alliances with activists; North a June 1st dairy parade, banner to march, Tuesday Night Live in July participate and "ask me why I'm a Prog; South going to organize town caucuses and plan other events; Central trying to reconnect the committees, set up a state house rapid reaction force.

6) Legislative Update: Robin and Seline, minimum wage turned out to be a moving target, rather than setting a standard it wound up being a salvage operation, wound up being a sustaining wage rather than a livable one. Family leave a weak bill was weakened even further. Discussion of retail cannabis, bill is dead this year, there were good social justice provisions hammered together but the bill will not move this session. Prison reform, there are studies both on building a new prison and program reform that would reduce the need for a new prison. Broadband did pass and has gone to the Governor and he is expected to sign, it will include models like EC Fiber. Plastic bag and styrofoam bill has passed out, half the Republican Caucus did vote for it and it should pass. Senator Pearson sent a message, believes a minimum wage bill will get voted out along with a more generous family leave bill. Ban on HSCs,

movement on weatherization, more money going into park and rides, bicycles and charging stations. He believes we are moving toward a funding source for water quality and a effort to get Vermont forests into the carbon sequestration.

7) Party Reorg- Town Caucuses 14-30 September, county 19-27 October (no more than 45 days after town), State Convention November 16. Important for maintaing our major party status. Josh urges events early and through the Summer and early planning. Josh committed to getting letters out to charis. Much of this is paperwork.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 PM.