**East Lyme Democratic Town Committee/Salem Town Committee**

**October 1, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting via Zoom**

**Minutes**

 **This is a combined joint meeting with the ELDTC and the Salem DTC. Jason Deeble called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**

1. **Joe Courtney Campaign**

Noah Carver (Joe Courtney Field Organizer) and Joe Courtney attended this meeting. Mr. Carver noted that he would welcome any volunteers for the Courtney campaign. He has plenty of Courtney signs available. Mr. Courtney provided updates on his campaign along with activities in the House of Representatives. He has voted in favor of a COVID bill that was passed that would provide relief to American workers, towns, small businesses and others. He is optimistic that a “blue wave” will occur this November in the house races and other races. His campaign has been working on providing signs and has been advertising in local media. He anticipates that local turnout will be extremely high and he also feels felt that we have strong candidates in all of our local races. Mr. Courtney noted his concerns about methods the opposing party has been suggesting and implementing that would lead to suppression of the vote in the upcoming election.

1. **Town Committee Campaign Reports**

Jason Deeble congratulated Beth Hogan for being one the individuals being honored with the Ella Grasso Women’s Leadership Award. Mr. Deeble thanked Ms. Hogan for all the leadership and guidance she has provided to him and the ELDTC. T.J Butcher stated that he is optimistic about the results in the upcoming presidential election as recent polls show that Joe Biden has been over 50% in the swing states.

1. **Treasurer’s Reports**

Joanne Hopkins of the ELDTC stated that their current balance is $6009.08 with additional donations and assessments to be added. A total of 34 assessments have been received by ELDTC members. This has been the highest number of assessments that have been received in years. Janet Griggs of the Salem DTC stated that their current balance is $1477.55.

1. **Minutes**

Hugh McKinney submitted a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2nd combined ELDTC/Salem DTC meeting. Steve Larcen seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

1. **Joe Biden Campaign**

Michelle Maitland is planning to send out invitations for Zoom meetings on Monday nights that will be focusing on calls on behalf of Joe Biden to voters in swing states. Ms. Maitland participated in a training session for the Biden phone bank earlier in the week. Ms. Maitland noted the availability of the calendar on the ELDTC website that provides a list of events.

1. **Martha Marx Campaign**

Martha Marx also thanked Beth Hogan for her guidance and congratulated her for being honored with the Ella Grasso Women’s Leadership Award. She is optimistic regarding the results for the upcoming election as the numbers of absentee ballots requested in her district include 6,500 Democrats, 2,000 Republicans and 4,800 unaffiliated individuals. She has been making calls to those who have requested ballots as it is anticipated that many of these individuals will be sending in their ballots shortly. Ms. Marx is observing that a large percentage of the unaffiliated voters are planning to vote Democratic this time around. She would greatly appreciate any phone bank outreach that can be provided by DTC members with the objective of communication with the voters who have requested ballots. She would also appreciate more likes, comments and sharing of her campaign posts in Facebook. Ms. Marx described the outreach activities that she has completed and are also being planned. She was at the East Lyme Community Center today. Ms. Marx also noted that she had campaign money from her union that can be available for ELDTC campaign expenses.

**7. Cate Steel Campaign**

The Cate Steel campaign is planning an event in Salem this Saturday. The plan is to have a parade of cars with supporters of Cate Steel going through different neighborhoods of Salem. There was a successful sign waving event last Friday and a great deal of phone banking on behalf of Ms.Steel has been completed. The lit drops on behalf of Ms. Steel and other candidates were also successful. A texting program that was implemented is another method that the Steel campaign has used in order to reach out to voters who have requested absentee ballots. Many postcards have also been sent to voters who have requested absentee ballots. Letters to the editor in either the New London Day or the CT Examiner would also be appreciated.

1. **ELDTC Outreach Subcommittee Report**

Michelle Maitland provided an update on outreach activities that have occurred and are being planned. A kayak event at Cini Park to celebrate World Rivers Day last Sunday was successful. An Indigenous Peoples Day is scheduled for Monday, October 12th at the pavilion at McCooks Park. Ms. Maitland thanked all the individuals and groups that have provided support and guidance in the planning for this event. A local archeologist and the local historical society have provided information to help ensure that the historical information provided (including information on the Nehantic Indian tribe) is historically accurate. There are ancestors of the original Nehantic Indians that have been active in proactively publicizing their history.

1. **ELDTC Campaign Subcommittee Report**

Steve Larcen noted the updated campaign activities grid sheet that was sent out via email to members. Mr. Larcen noted activities that the Salem and East Lyme DTC’s could collaborate on. Post card writing and phone banks are among the activities that have occurred and will continue. Lit drops have been completed in East Lyme. Jeff Langan noted that letters can be sent out to friends and families of ELDTC members who have spheres of influence. The letters would have information on the candidates and absentee ballot procedures. Martha Marx noted that any expenses incurred (stamps, etc.) should be paid by the DTC and that should be noted in the letters. She also noted that any letter that goes out on behalf of the respective candidates should be reviewed by the Cate Steel and Martha Marx campaigns if they are mentioned. Steve Larcen also submitted a motion to increase the campaign budget from $3000 to $3500 in order to pay for an ad (in collaboration with other local DTC’s) in the Lyme Times. Jeff Langan seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

1. **Campaign Signs**

Nickie Delucco Padilla noted that a lot of people were asking her about the availability of Biden signs. She felt that acquiring the Biden signs would provide her a method to have discussions with these voters (who requested the Biden signs) on the Martha Marx and Cate Steel campaigns. Martha Marx noted that she had signs available from her campaign if needed. Steve Larcen noted that more money can be budgeted to pay for signs that Sign Craft in Niantic could create.

Motion: Jeff Langan submitted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. Michelle Maitland seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Gordon