



Village Independent Democrats

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MINUTES – August 2015

President Nadine Hoffmann opened the meeting by thanking everyone for showing up in the middle of summer. The Lenox Hill Emergency Department had cancelled due to vacations. The Judicial Screening Panel will be making its report August 25--there are three or four vacancies. The Judicial Convention will be on September 24 at Harlem Hospital. The County Cocktail Party will be held on August 20 at SEIU headquarters.

Our joint meeting with the CRDC will be held at the LGBT Center on October 15. The subject will be the \$15 minimum wage. Scott Stringer will report, and both sides will be represented. The judicial candidates will have a forum on September 17 or 20.

Keen Berger now made her District Leader Report, opening by saying that she had decided to endorse Jean Grillo and John Scott. She has worked with them for ten years and they had gotten many endorsements, and even though the challengers were good people, she felt she must endorse. Before she did so, she called Terri Cude and explained her position.

Because of decisions made uptown, the race for judicial delegates requires everyone to be on the ballot in the 66 ED Part A. There was a discussion about the election and possible outcomes.

Jonathan Geballe commended Keen for calling Terri.

Tony Hoffmann and Ed Yutkowitz gave the results of petitioning; there are 50 EDs in Part A, with slots divided between VID and VRDC. Keen and Arthur Schwartz will appoint delegates in vacancies. We have an obligation to get out a mailing of the judicial slate, which will cost us under \$1,000, so Tony asked permission to spend that amount on postcards. This vote was almost unanimously approved, with one abstention.

Tony spoke to Arthur Schwartz twice about the possibility of bringing Bernie Sanders to New York--he was told Arthur was working on it. There ensued a discussion of whether Bernie could be on the ballot here, as he is an Independent. It was agreed that he could probably be on the ballot as the ballot consists of delegates, who are in the party.

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Nadine informed everyone that the House had passed a bill prohibiting States from labeling GMO foods. She read a resolution calling on Senators Schumer and Gillebrand to oppose any bill that prohibits the labeling of GMO foods. This was passed unanimously. Nadine had gotten an email from Linda Rosenthal stating she had a bill before the Assembly, A617, requiring labeling of GMO foods. There will be a discussion of this bill at the next meeting.

Nat Johnson made a presentation of three issues. The first, City Council Res. No. 353, requires the banning of non-therapeutic antibiotics for use on livestock and calls on the President to sign the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (S. 1256) and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 1150). It was unanimously passed to send letters to Corey Johnson and Rosie Mendez thanking them for signing on to Res. 353.

The next, City Council Res. No. 694, calls on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission not to relicense Indian Point 2 and 3. After discussion, it was agreed letters would go to Corey Johnson and Rosie Mendez thanking them for their support--17 for, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Now there was a discussion of the Algonquin Pipeline, to be built 1500 feet from Indian Point. FERC approved this despite letters from Schumer and Gillebrand and objections from Westchester County. Various agencies, like SANE Energy, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline, and 350.org, are trying to get FERC to reconsider because their study was based on inaccurate calculations. Nat suggested calling Rob Asterino at 914 995-2900 to express objections. Brad Hoylman is being solicited for a meeting with the agencies involved.

Tony Hoffmann passed out copies of his Resolution in Support of the International Agreement to Prevent Iran from Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon. This is quite controversial, and after discussion urging members to call Jerrold Nadler and Carolyn Maloney, this was passed unanimously. Jonathan Geballe, Corresponding Secretary, is to send a letter to Schumer expressing disappointment and Gillebrand thanking her for her support.

Nat and Anne Heaney attended a rally about keeping fossil fuels in the ground, and reported this was attended by a number of financial people who discussed divestment. Scott Stringer is slowly divesting from 30% to 5%.

Sharon Woolums was unable to attend but sent Nadine an email relating the success of the Small Business Forum in Washington Heights, which 200-210 people attended, and which received lots of press. She recommended going to the Take Back NYC website and signing the petition. There are three more upcoming forums. The SBJSL has 23 co-sponsors and would need 3 more to pass. However, first it needs to come to the floor of the Council for discussion. Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito has said she will bring it to the floor, however she has not stated when.

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Keen now reported on the proposed Stonewall National Park site of Christopher Park. After discussion, it was agreed this park was vital to the LGBTQ rights movement, and the resolution in favor was passed unanimously.

Erik Coler a new member, now presented his ideas on reaching out to younger people with presences at Washington Square Park and Union Square Park, on August 29 and September 12.

Marti Speranza will be reaching out to other clubs to take part in a Presidential Candidates' Forum sometime in October. GSID and VID have already signed on.

Tony now updated Candles for Clemency, a vigil to be held September 26 at Governor Cuomo's home in Mount Kisco, primarily for clemency for older prisoners who are rehabilitated and need to be freed. VID donated \$400 for this vigil, and volunteers to go were solicited. He also advocated the County Cocktail Party, which he will attend with Allen Roskoff and Marty in prison garb.

Finally, there was a vote on the date of the next meeting, as the 10th and the 17th are both problematic. It was agreed the meeting would be held on Wednesday the 16th, with the 17th as an alternate if the 16th could not be accommodated.

The meeting was adjourned.