

New London Greens

Chapter of the CT Green Party

Minutes of Monthly meeting

February 3, 2008

3:00 pm

at the Public Library of New London
63 Huntington St., New London, CT 06320

Members present:

Ronna Stuller, chair
Chris Nelson, treasurer
Andy Derr, secretary
Art Costa
Bud McAllister
Diane Ruhmshottel
Ken Hanson
Pete de la Rosa
Bob Stuller

Others present:

John Russell

1. Minutes

Minutes of the January 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Treasurer's report

There has been no activity since September. The balance stands at \$540.22.

3. State Central Committee report

- Ronna Stuller reported on the meeting of last Tuesday.
- The State Convention has been tentatively set for April 26. Ballots will be sent out for those who cannot attend. Elections will be held for Officers of the state party and also a Presidential preference ballot will be held, to determine who our delegates will support at the National party convention.
- More members are needed for the Internal Elections Committee.
- The SCC needs from each chapter a list of the current members of that chapter. Chris Nelson will be getting a new list of registered voters from the Registrars, and he will put together a list of all New London Greens from that.

This list will then be circulated to the chapter so that all the people who are gone from the area can be removed.

- Harold Burbank was endorsed to run for Congress in the 5th CD.
- Scott Deshefy is almost ready to begin getting signatures on his nominating petitions in his run for Congress in the 2nd CD.
- The CT Green Party will have an intern from Brandeis University for the spring semester.
- The GPUS has adopted a goal of having 1,000 Green candidates for office in 2008. The CT Green Party supports this goal. The SCC has asked the NL Greens to consider running candidates for the 39th and 40th Assembly districts. A discussion ensued about the advisability and desirability of doing so, with no consensus emerging. There was some feeling that if the Republicans were not fielding candidates, it might be an opportunity we wanted to take advantage of. We don't at this point know what the Republicans are planning. John Russell informed us that the Republicans will have a new town committee chair in March.

The question was raised about the current law regarding cross-endorsing petitioning candidates. This question needs to be answered.

4b. Cross endorsement

John Russell spoke to urge us to consider a cross endorsement strategy in 2009. His goal is to get rid of one party (Democratic) rule in New London. He stated that we have no accountability, no control over expenditures. He suggests that if the Republicans cross endorsed one Green candidate, and the Greens cross endorsed one Republican candidate for City Council, that we might get these two candidates elected. Discussion touched on Jean deSmet's victory on 'The Bottom Line', and the status of One New London.

A second perhaps complementary strategy was suggested, to limit the number of candidates on the Green and Republican lines, so that the votes of people who wanted to change the Democratic control of the city would be concentrated, not split. This would mean eliminating placeholders, and other candidates who were not campaigning seriously.

These matters were tabled until the April meeting.

4b. Town Committee

Chris reported on his research into the pros and cons of a town committee system.

Town committees are responsible for nominating candidates for local office, and for funding those candidates who choose not to have a separate campaign committee, or to be part of a slate committee.

Currently, the NL Greens has minor party status in New London, and we hold a public caucus each year to choose our candidates. We have always had

a slate committee for all of our candidates. The slate committee (and individual campaign committees) exist only for the duration of the campaign, and must be zeroed out at the end of the campaign, at which point they cease to exist.

A Town Committee would establish rules for nominating candidates, which could call for a caucus or some other form of choosing candidates, as we think best. A Town Committee exists before and after the campaigns, and it continues to exist after the campaign, so if there a surplus, it could be carried over to the next campaign.

A chapter funding a campaign via it's PAC, as we currently do, is limited to \$2,000 per campaign. A Town Committee can spend whatever it wants to for the candidates who choose it as their funding source, A Town Committee might also give us more legitimacy in New London.

Chris sees some advantages to the Town Committee system, and no disadvantages. He states that it can be done fairly easily.

Some questions arose about the relationship of a Town Committee to races for the State Legislature, the districts for which either are only part of the city, or are larger than the city. Chris will look into this, and report back at the March meeting.

3. SCC report reprised

Ronna moved and Ken seconded that "The New London Chapter resolves that the State Central Committee should adopt an annual budget." The motion passed.

5. New business

- We discussed the purpose and usage of the NL Greens yahoo group list serve. There was some dissatisfaction expressed with a recent series of disputatious posts. The Moderator, Bob Stuller, said that he took action to stop the exchange after becoming concerned about the tone of some of the posts. He said that he doesn't censor content.

- Budget. We didn't have time for a discussion of a budget. Ronna requested members with ideas for projects in the upcoming year that might cost money contact her and she will put the ideas together for a discussion at the March meeting.

6a •Re-New London

Art spoke about the new group that he has been forming with others. It's an umbrella organization, bringing together several positive ideas and the stockholders, and trying to coordinate and support them. They are working on getting 501-c 3 (lobbying) and 501-c 4 (education) status. This group is intended to be a grassroots organization, building community from the inside out. Their 2 current projects are the Land Value Tax, and BALLE, and local business network

that promotes Local First. Future projects may include Community Health Care, and Sustainable New London.

- New London Sustainable Community Initiative Committee

Ken reports that the Committee has met for its orientation, and he has been elected Chair, and Laura Cordes Secretary. Their meetings will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center, and will be open to the public.

- Thinking Green

Ronna said that the schedule was filling up.

4a. Possible Green projects for 2008

There is a voter reg project being discussed among some of the African American churches locally. See Bud McAllister for details.

Ronna has talked to some woodworkers regarding the Green Chair project, and reports some interest. See her for details

The Coast Guard Academy is interested in doing a cleanup at Riverside Park around Earth Day, in coalition with other groups. Pete is working on the project.

7. Announcements

Love Makes a Family is getting active again in their campaign for marriage equality. A representative would like to speak to us at our March meeting. Andy will be in touch with them. They are also having their major fund raiser in early April, Eat, Drink, and Be Married. We have participated in that in past years.

8. Next meeting

We will meet on Sunday, March 2, at 3 pm, at the Public Library of New London, 63 Huntington St., New London. Please try to be on time- our meeting ends when the Library closes at 5 pm.

Andy Derr
Secretary