

New London Greens

Chapter of the CT Green Party

Minutes of Monthly meeting

March 9, 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
Ken Hanson
Pete de la Rosa

The following items were added to the agenda:

Under #4 Old Business, add e) 2007 Campaign wrap up.

Under #5 New Business, add a) Charter Revision and b) Magnet School referendum.

1. Minutes of the February meeting.

Ken moved to approve them as presented, seconded by Art. Passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's report.

No activity since last meeting. Balance in the account is \$540.22.

3. State Central Committee report.

No one from the chapter was able to attend the February meeting.

a) The CT GP has received a substantial sum, over \$13,000, from the GPUS. This is from a donation to GPUS that came from a CT donor. Ronna reminded us that we had recently urged the SCC to pass an annual budget, and this was more urgent now. She also stated that the CT GP owe a balance of over \$2,000 to the NL Greens, and that if we have a need for the money, now would be a good time to request it.

b) We have nominating petitions for Scott Deshefy (Congress, 2nd district), and also for the as yet undetermined candidate for President. Deshefy

needs about 4,000 signatures, and the Presidential candidate needs about 11,000.

c) The Annual Convention of the CT GP will be held in April. Our officers for the upcoming year will be elected then, and candidates are needed. Officers to be elected are 3 co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and 5 National Committee representatives.

4 Old Business.

a) Nominating petitions already covered above.

b) Town Committee formation follow up. Discussion of advantages and possibilities of forming a New London Green Town Committee. Town Committees must have rules or bylaws on file with the City Clerk, which must specify clearly how candidates are selected, and how committee members are selected. One example used was that we could have one committee member from each district, and 4 at large committee members who could represent significant constituencies.

Ronna and Chris will work on putting together a proposal for the April meeting. They will ask Pat Bolles if she will join them.

c) 2008 budget for NLGP. Ideas that were presented to Ronna for expenditures were the Tea Horse, becoming a Friend of the Library, and ad book ads for groups like the NL Homeless Hospitality Coalition and the NAACP. Income ideas were a tag sale (coordinated with the All Souls tag sale again if possible) and requesting some of our balance from the CT GP. Ronna will put these together for a proposal next month.

Andy moved the we join the Friends of the Library, at a cost of \$100. Ronna seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d) Green projects for 2008. We discussed the ideas that have been presented for a major Green project for this year. After assessing the time and energy needs for the Presidential and Congressional campaigns this year, and our desire to support ongoing projects which are not strictly Green, but are in very much in keeping with Green values (like Riverside Park cleanups, NLSCIC, and ReNew London), we decided not to undertake any major new projects this year.

e) 2007 Campaign wrap up. Andy reports that we still need \$75. He will finish it out this month.

f) Contact with New London Republican party. Ronna and Andy will meet with the new chair of the Republican Party to find out their plans for the legislative

seats in New London this year, and to continue our discussion with John Russell from last month.

5. New Business

a) Charter Revision. City Council has formed a new Charter Revision Commission, following the failure of the recent referendum, in which the proposals to change the charter received over 60% positive votes, but too few people voted to let the changes pass. Art Costa has been appointed to serve on the Commission, and will be the Secretary. Unlike the last Commission, which was instructed to look at just a few issues, this Commission has an unlimited mandate. There will be an open forum on Wednesday, March 19th, at 7 pm (location unknown at this point).

b) Magnet School Referendum. There will be a public forum in March (perhaps the 27th?). We discussed the magnet school proposal at some length. There was support for the magnet school idea in general, but some expressed concern about some of the details of the current proposal. Some of the questions that were raised were regarding the financial penalties of suburban enrollment quotas weren't met, unclear tuition rates, who pays for cost overruns, and a concern for fine print that hasn't been read. No action was taken.

6. Updates

a) ReNew London. Art reports that they have a Steering Committee and Officers (although they still need a Treasurer). New London First, a citywide local business network urging people to shop locally, will be launching soon.

b) New London Sustainable Community Initiative Committee. Ken reports that they have met, and are writing their Bylaws and Charter. City Manager Berliner has asked them to work on 20% by 2010, a sustainable energy program.

c) Thinking Green. Ken is hosting Thursday.

7. Announcements

Love Makes a Family will have its annual Eat, Drink, and Be Married Fundraiser in early April. Andy reports that some All Souls people may host a party, and will keep everyone posted.

March is the 5th anniversary of the start of the war. There will be lots of demonstrations in the region.

8. Next meeting (pending confirmation from the Library) will be Sunday, April 13, at 3:00 pm, at the Public Library of New London.

Andy Derr
Secretary