

New London Greens Regular Chapter Meeting

July 10th, 2011

Home of Bob & Ronna Stuller

In Attendance: Pat Bolles, Dan Spurr, Chris Nelson (recorder), Bud McAllister, Mike Hatt, Daryl Finizio (Guest), Zac Levy (Guest), Mirna Martinez, Ronna Stuller, Bob Stuller

Treasurer's Report: Chris Nelson reported that the Town Committee account has \$918.47 on hand. The only activity since the last meeting has been a \$100 donation to the New London NAACP for the purchase of an ad in a fundraising booklet to support the organization's scholarship fund.

State Central Committee: Ronna Stuller gave a report on the June 28th meeting of the State Central Committee. She and other newly elected members of the Executive Committee are pushing for the implementation of a budget, in the face of some opposition from long-standing members. A top priority is revamping the state party's web site.

New London Municipal Elections: Ronna Stuller reported that to date, there are two candidates on the Green line. She and Mirna Martinez are both running for Board of Education. There has been no success in recruiting candidates to run for City Council. The slate of candidates must be finalized by September 7th.

Mayoral Race: Daryl Finizio provided an update on his campaign. The New London Democratic Town Committee will caucus on July 19th to endorse a candidate. He, Michael Passero and Michael Buscetto are all seeking the endorsement. It is unclear who is the favorite. If Buscetto loses the Town Committee vote, he will likely force a primary, which could be quite nasty. Daryl expressed some disillusionment

with elements of the New London Democratic Party. He said that he feels more at home with the Greens and would be willing to abandon his campaign for the Democratic endorsement and run as a Green if we would vote to endorse him. There was some discussion about whether that move was wise at this juncture. If Daryl could manage to win the Democratic endorsement, he would be the front runner. If he ran as a Green, he would be a distant long shot. There was also a discussion about areas of agreement, and some differences in emphasis, between his platform and the Green's, especially in regards to development issues. It was agreed that, regardless of which line he ends up running on, there were many areas in which we could work together. Daryl excused himself from the meeting.

After his departure, a long discussion ensued about what position, if any, the Green Party should take in regards to the mayor's race. There was some talk about the similarities between Daryl and the two independent candidates in the race, Martin Olsen and Lori Hopkins. Ronna and others expressed concern that all three candidates would draw support from similar types of voters, potentially dividing this vote. It was agreed that we should arrange a joint meeting with all three candidates to express this concern and to explore the possibility of their cooperating together on an independent line, with one running for Mayor and the other two running for City Council. At the very least, such a meeting would enable us to explain our position to three candidates who have approached us seeking our support.