



**February 8, 2019 – FINAL Meeting Minutes  
Bethlehem Public Library, Delmar, NY**

ED	Last Name	First Name	Present	Proxy	Absent	ED	Last Name	First Name	Present	Proxy	Absent
1	Connolly	Kristan C	X			17	Stevens	Deborah	X		
	Ungerman	Susan E.	X				Dorsey, Jr.	Leo E	X		
2	Chiarello	Mario P		X		18	Wagoner	Giles C	X		
	Coffey	Thomas	X				Novak	Jaya			X
3	Bulgaro	Margaret A		X		19	Piper	Shari			X
	Paty	Philip K			X		Sanders	Michelle U.	X		
4	Robbins	Pamela C	X			20	Beeler	Patricia A	X		
	Sherman	John	X				Bushart	Bruce O	X		
5	Brousseau	Cara J	X			21	Ortiz	Miguel G	X		
	Ference	Reed			X		Hackman	Peter W			X
6	Hurewitz	Jay A	X			22	Dijstelbergen	Christa	X		
	Silverman	Lorraine R	X				Goodfellow	Thomas J	X		
7	Baker	Jeffrey J	X			23	Furman	Anne C		X	
	Becker	Mark S	X				Messina	Janet S			X
8	Birn	Jennifer A	X			24	Ginsburg	Gary K			X
	Meyer	Matthew J		X			Hogan	Barbara S			X
9	Skripak	Pamela	X			25	Coffey	Daniel W	X		
	Snyder	Jeremy D	X				Jordan	Wendy L	X		
10	Cunningham	Joanne E	X			26	Hallock	Gary J	X		
	Cunningham	Maureen O	X				Raleigh	Sean T	X		
11	Grasso	Steven L		X		27	Bilik	James	X		
	Young	Alexis	X				Collens	John D	X		
12	Bannigan	Peter F	X			28	Picarazzi	Louis J	X		
	Roney	Alicia M	X				Miller	Matthew J	X		
13	Elliot	Mary S	X			29	Mack	Barrett D		X	
	Kuhn	Jeffrey D	X				Cocchiara	Gina F		X	
14	Saunders	Emily G	X			30	Roods	Samuel	X		
	Beebe	Timothy K	X				Oppenheimer	Joshua L	X		
15	Noether	Chanson D	X			31	Gold	Melissa	X		
	Garry	Rose Ann	X				Rogers	Samuel		X	
16	Barron	Matt		X							
	Arias	Rudy A			X						
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

**Visitors:** Amy Joyce, Darius Shahinfar, New Scotland Democratic Committee Members from County Legislative Districts 33 and 38 (J. Michael Naughton, Kim Verner, etc.), Kate Powers, Nanci Moquin, Vicky Plotsky, David VanLuven, Jen Corona, Marc Dorsey and wife, John Anastasi

**Call of the Roll, Welcome, and Meeting Goals:** Chair Joanne Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:03. Secretary Chanson Noether confirmed that a quorum was present. Joanne Cunningham welcomed visitors and candidates running for countywide offices, each of whom gave brief remarks: Amy Joyce (Family Court Judge), Darius Shahinfar (Albany City Treasurer), Jen Corona (Family Court Judge), and Josh Pepper (County Court Judge).

**Review of Meeting Minutes:** November 29, 2018 minutes were circulated electronically to the full BDC prior to the meeting for review. Revisions to minutes from 11/29/18 were noted at the 2/8/19 meeting as follows:

- Corrected to reflect Tom Coffey present via proxy at the 11/28/18 BDC meeting; no other changes noted
- Jim Bilik moved to accept the minutes with the correction noted above; Matt Miller seconded the motion; unanimous vote to accept minutes from 11/28/18 meeting as noted

**Chair's Report:** Joanne Cunningham reviewed the new petitioning and primary timetable adopted by Albany County for 2019 and the activities that have been happening over the past several weeks to get everything in place to adhere to this new timetable, including the interviewing process. Petitioning will begin on 2/25 with petitions due to BOE by 4/1 in anticipation of the primary on 6/25. The Chair then reviewed town and county races for this year and the recommended endorsements made by the Executive Committee. Caucuses then met as groups to discuss recommendations and make endorsements for Albany County Legislator candidates. Results were as follows:

- Albany County Legislative District 33 - Bill Rinehart, vote was 8 to 2 in favor of Bill
- Albany County Legislative District 34 - Joanne Cunningham, 13 yes (unanimous)
- Albany County Legislative District 35 - Jeff Kuhn, 6 yes, 1 abstention
- Albany County Legislative District 36 - Matt Miller unanimous 12 yes (unanimous)
- Albany County Legislative District 38 - Vicky Plotsky, 5 yes (unanimous)

Following the Legislative endorsements, the Chair then reviewed the Executive Committee's recommendations for Town Offices and opened the floor for nominations. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak to the entire committee prior to their respective endorsement vote. Results are as follows:

- Town Clerk – recommended candidate Nanci Moquin – Jeff Kuhn nominated, Pam Robbins seconded, unanimous vote to endorse
- Receiver of Taxes – recommended candidate Alicia Roney – Mark Becker nominated, Tom Coffey seconded, unanimous vote to endorse
- Town Supervisor – recommended candidate David VanLuven – Pat Dorsey nominated, Matt Miller seconded, unanimous vote to endorse
- Town Board (2 seats) – recommended candidates Joyce Becker and Dan Coffey – Maureen Cunningham nominated Joyce Becker, Giles Wagoner seconded; Tom Coffey nominated Dan Coffey, Jack Collens seconded; no other nominations – vote for both nominated candidates all in favor, with one abstention (Dan Coffey)
- Highway Superintendent – recommended candidate Marc Dorsey
  - Pam Robbins nominated Marc Dorsey, Susan Ungerman seconded
  - Giles Wagoner nominated John (Tiger) Anastasi. Prior to seconding the nomination, Sean Raleigh moved to grant Tiger speaking privileges, Patti Beeler seconded, BDC majority voted to allow Tiger to speak. Tiger further explained his position and clarified what he communicated via email to the BDC Executive Committee earlier in the week regarding the Republican Party's support for his candidacy and his unwillingness to renounce that endorsement to enable the BDC to consider him as a potential BDC endorsed candidate in the 2019 election. Following Tiger's remarks, Patti Beeler seconded Tiger's nomination.

Marc Dorsey then spoke to the committee on his own behalf prior to the vote to endorse. Emily Saunders asked if Marc Dorsey was a registered Democrat, the answer was "yes." Jeff Kuhn then spoke about his thoughts on why the BDC should not consider endorsing a non-Democrat, cross-endorsing a candidate with the Republican Party, or not endorsing a candidate at all. Cara

Brousseau, Jack Collens, Tom Goodfellow, Mara Elliot, and Wendy Jordan also spoke on the issue, with similar sentiments as Jeff. Sean Raleigh questioned the process by which recommendations were made. Joanne Cunningham provided further details about the process and the role of the Executive Committee in making the recommendations. Patti Beeler spoke on behalf of Tiger and his performance as the incumbent for this position. Following this discussion the Chair called for a vote.

Results: there were 38 votes in favor of endorsing Marc Dorsey, 3 votes in favor of John (Tiger) Anastasi, and 4 abstentions. Marc Dorsey wins the BDC endorsement for Highway Superintendent.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was submitted and reviewed. Bruce Bushart noted minimal expenditures since the last meeting and a current balance of \$7371.83. Approval of the report was unanimous.

### **Committee Reports**

**Operations:** Jeff Baker reviewed the petitioning process and timeline for petitioning this year. Jeff noted important dates as follows:

- 2/24 – pick up petitions at Jeff Baker's house (23 Woodbine Road, Delmar)
- 2/26 – petitioning begins
- 3/23 – petitions due to Jeff Baker
- 4/1 – BDC Operations Team submits BDC petitions to BOE
- 6/25 – Democratic primary

**Fundraising:** Pam Skripak reviewed the major fundraisers that BDC hosts and there was a request for more BDC members to volunteer to help with Taste of Bethlehem, which will be held on 5/2 at the Normanside CC.

**Personnel:** Pam Skripak will be reaching out to new members for orientation soon.

**Community Service:** Matt Miller noted that we collected \$800 for the Bethlehem Community Fund on behalf of the BDC membership.

**Ad Hoc Communications:** Pam Skripak noted that Sam Roods has volunteered to take over this committee.

**Ad Hoc Legal and Parliamentarian:** There was no report at tonight's meeting.

### **General Announcements:**

- Full ACDC meeting 2/19 at Carpenter's Hall, 14 Corporate Circle in Albany
- Taste of Bethlehem – Normanside CC - 5/2
- Jeremy discussed Bill R.'s upcoming event.
- Joanne C. noted new and younger members of the BDC.

There was a motion and unanimous agreement to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.