



**December 17, 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	Novak	Jaya			X
	Ungerman	Susan E.			X		Dorsey, Jr.	Leo E	X		
2						18	Wagoner	Giles C			X
	Coffey	Thomas		X			Ciafardoni	Lori			X
3	Oppenheimer	Joshua L			X	19	Buck	Deborah	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				Neri	Jonas	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	Maureen O	X			26	Hallock	Gary J		X	
	Schell	Carl	X				Raleigh	Sean T			X
11	Dorsey	Michelle	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	Elliott	Mary S	X			29	Mack	Barrett D		X	
	Kuhn	Jeffrey D			X		Cocchiara	Gina F			X
14	Cunningham	Joanne E	X			30	Roods	Samuel	X		
	Beebe	Timothy K			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>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>

**Visitors:** Marc Dorsey and David VanLuven (2 visitors)

**Call of the Roll, Welcome, and Meeting Goals:** Chair Joanne Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Secretary Chanson Noether confirmed that a quorum was present. Joanne Cunningham welcomed visitors and led introductions of new members. Chair Cunningham began the meeting with a brief review of BDC committee person roles and responsibilities.

**Review of Meeting Minutes:** October 27, 2019 minutes were circulated electronically to the full BDC prior to the meeting for review. No revisions to minutes from 10/27/19 were noted at the 12/17/19 meeting. Unanimous vote to approve as drafted.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was submitted, and major expenditures were reviewed. There is now a \$9,635.50 balance. Approval of the report was unanimous.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** Pam Skripak welcomed new BDC members and noted that there are currently two open BDC seats, one in ED 2 and one in ED 30. Ms. Skripak asked the BDC to try to recruit new members for the two open positions and to follow up with her directly with any interested candidates.

**Operations:** Jeff Baker thanked everyone for their efforts during the 2019 election and discussed some observations regarding early voting.

**Ad Hoc Communications:** Sam Roods provided an update on where BDC communications currently stand and where he hopes they can go moving forward. Mr. Roods congratulated everyone on a job well done at getting the word out about candidates and key issues via social media and other outlets. Regarding upcoming work, Mr. Roods discussed revamping of the BDC newsletter, creating more shareable content, and briefly reviewed what messaging to expect from the GOP that will need to be countered in 2020.

**Ad Hoc Community Service:** Matt Miller reminded the BDC of the donation collection for the Bethlehem Community Fund and accepted donations from donors during the meeting. It was also noted during Mr. Miller's report-out that the BDC made a donation in support of Five Rivers earlier in the year.

**Chair's Report:** Joanne Cunningham reviewed several items, as follows:

- Review of 2019 local election results. As compared to the last off-year election in 2017, a lower turnout was noted for the 2019 election. Chair Cunningham reviewed the results of the various local races and presented some analysis of the undervotes where applicable.
- Review of 2020 races/election season. In 2020 all BDC seats are up for re-election. There are no other local races. 2020 is a big year beyond Bethlehem. Paul Tonko has an opponent, but not a major challenge. Jeff Baker noted to the group that if a current committee person is not interested in running for their seat again in 2020, Pam Skripak should be notified by early January, as prepping for petitioning will begin in late January.
- Goal and process for internal strategic planning exercise for the BDC. The BDC leadership will be engaging in a strategic planning session for the future of the BDC in 2020 and beyond. Chair Cunningham stressed her interest in continuing to "dial up" efforts and unlocking the potential of the BDC as the primary impetuses for engaging in the planning efforts. Some elements of/goals for the strategic planning process will include increasing revenue from fundraising events and developing a fundraising plan, engaging everyone on the BDC at a higher level, increasing diversity and representation among BDC membership, and increasing voter turnout. It was noted that this meeting will occur early in the year (February/March) and that Chair Cunningham would be reaching out to leadership with potential dates soon.
- Review of plans to work strategically with Communications group. There are plans for working more directly and strategically with the Communications group in conjunction with the Executive Committee and elected Town leaders to anticipate and be proactive regarding messaging, etc. There will be ad hoc meetings of this group starting in January 2020.
- Review of 2021 races/election season. 2021 will be a big year across the board and will a particularly big year for Town races.
  - Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, two Town Board seats (Cunningham and Foster), and one Town Justice position (Kirby) will all be up for re-election.
  - The BDC will be interviewing for a Town Board candidate to run with Maureen Cunningham.

- Local Democrats need to continue to run as a team, especially as the GOP looks to do the same.
- It will continue to be very important to post and respond on social media in a positive and constructive manner.
- BDC Meetings in 2020. It was noted that there will be four meetings of the full BDC in 2020: February 13, 2020 (7-9pm, Bethlehem Public Library); June 25, 2020 (7-9pm, Bethlehem Public Library); September 17, 2020 (7-9pm, Bethlehem Public Library); and a post-Election 2020 meeting to be scheduled soon.

**General Announcements:**

- Michelle Sanders is directing a play regarding a Holocaust survivor at Ohav Shalom. Please support and see Michelle for more information.
- Tom Goodfellow discussed a petition for the local clean air act and encouraged those interested in signing to see him after the meeting. Tom also noted that if anyone is interested in campaigning for Bernie Sanders, he is organizing.
- The swearing in ceremony for Bethlehem elected officials will be on 1/6/20 at 5:30 PM at Town Hall.
- The swearing in ceremony for those elected to the Albany County Legislature will be on 1/1/20 at 12:00 PM in the County Legislature Chamber.

There was a motion and unanimous agreement to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM.