

March 6, 2005, 6 pm

19 Evergreen Ave. New London

Chair: Kenric Hanson Recorder: Ronna Stuller

In Attendance: Kenric Hanson, Bob Stuller, Ronna Stuller, Peter de la Rosa, Andy Derr, Laura Cordes, Chris Nelson, Sile Herbert, Rick Buell, Tim Hanser, Tom Clark, Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzales

Fundraising:

Andy reported that a goal of \$1,500 has been set for fundraising. Ideas include: an Earth Day raffle; summer concert starring Dogbite and (hopefully) Can Kickers; tag sale at Ken's house; "adopt a pothole" road repair; Saturday morning brunch (green eggs and ham?); and "rake-a-thon" neighborhood clean-ups. Next committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m., 3/17, at Chris and Laura's home.

Elections: A timeline and letter have been submitted. Laura Cordes, Ken Hanson, Pat Bolles, Rick Buell and Andy Derr are on the nominating committee. They have compiled a list of about 30 people to approach about running for office and to elicit more ideas for potential candidates. A list of criteria is being developed to assure that we run credible candidates, including: 5-years' residence in NL, views compatible with 10 key values, communication skills, NL political awareness, commitment to campaigning. We are seeking representatives from diverse groups (age, gender race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, NL native). A slate will hopefully be finalized by June, with (ideally) 5 candidates for Council and 5 for Board of Ed. A registration drive and nominating convention are planned for the future. Next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3/15, at 7:00 p.m. at Ken's house.

Thinking Green: Tomorrow's show will be a round-table on Mock Terror. The T-G crew is planning to go on hiatus over the summer (and get a time slot for taped programming), then go for a prime slot when we return in the fall.

State Green Party: There are currently 3 candidates for 3 positions in the state party, so no election is needed. A candidate for treasurer is still being sought. A vote on whether to maintain the Hartford office is likely at the March meeting. At this time there are political - as well as financial - barriers to maintaining the office. The Office committee is meeting in Hartford on 3/12. New London resident and Green supporter Peg Cramer, who passed away last winter, has bequeathed a large sum of money (about \$12,000-\$15,000) to the Green Party. The gift is being processed by GP-US, but will be returned to Connecticut and New London. We need to assure that we will receive the 30% that is intended for NL Greens, and also plan to propose that the CT GP pass a resolution that the money cannot be used until a budget is passed. We plan to send a thank you to Peg's sister, who lives on Broad Street. The NL Greens are hosting a state strategy meeting on 4/2. The State meetings have had no quorum for 2 months; the problem may be rectified when West and NW merge, reducing the quorum. The next CT Green Party meeting is

scheduled for 3/29. An annual meeting is anticipated in the future; local Greens are encouraged to attend.

#### Charter Revision:

Tim Hanser is on the sub-committee for Referenda, Board of Finance, etc. He reported that he favors separating the Board of Ed budget from the general budget. Regarding Board of Finance, the goal is greater accountability; suggested changes include: giving the Board of Finance greater authority, electing its members, attaching stipulations to members, and restricting withdrawals from the fund balance. Other charter-related issues were discussed: Strong mayor - the group voted in favor of this change Council make-up - Caleb Kleppner will address the Commission on 4/11 on changes that would make City Council more representative and/or accountable; Tim feels that district representation would suit NL better than other options. Andy is working with Barbara Major to research where (in which districts) past and present Councilors reside. Election reform - campaign finance /clean election laws, ballot access, staggered elections A committee was formed to work on Charter-reform positions: Chris, Andy and Ken Upcoming Charter Commission meetings: March 13, March 28, April 11 (public hearing). Greens are encouraged to attend and present positions.

Riverside Park: Tim continues to be concerned that the city seems more interested in marketing the park than preserving it as valuable open space. Though the school developers appear responsible, there are questions about channels through which neighborhood meetings are being scheduled. Due to Zenobia Penn's strong advocacy for the school, a connection between LEARN and NLDC is suspected but not confirmed at this time. Possible allies for maintaining Riverside as a park - SOB's, Arboretum/Glenn Dreyer, NAACP. Earth Day: NL Greens and the Earth Day Committee can have an informational table at Mitchell College on April 1. Pete will look into details.

Peace & Justice Network: 2nd film fest event will take place on March 24 at the New London Library - "A Force More Powerful" is a film about successful nonviolent movements worldwide.

Next NL Greens meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2, 6:00 p.m., at Bob & Ronna's