

New London Greens - March 4, 2007

In attendance: Tim Hanser (facilitator), Art Costa, Pete de la Rosa, Sheila Herbert, Bob Stuller, Ronna Stuller (recorder), Ken Hanson, Andy Derr

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

State Central Committee Report

No one at the meeting attended SCC this month. Ronna reported that she spoke to Cliff a couple weeks ago, and he is hoping that someone from New London is interested in being nominated for one of the Co-Chair positions.

Treasurer's Report

Chris was not present at this meeting; he posted last month's report to the NL Greens' listserv.

Thinking Green

Richard Krasner the newly hired GM of Fiddleheads, has expressed interest in being a host; he has experience working with Cable Access in Massachusetts. It is our preference that we first have an opportunity to introduce him as a guest talking about Fiddleheads, then - if he is still interested - he can join our host rotation.

The March T-G schedule is booked, and the April schedule is in process.

Our time slot changes to Thursdays at 7:00 for April-May-June. We discussed our summer plans and agreed that we will go on hiatus - as we have for the last 2 years - then have first pick for the fall season which begins in October. If we want PR over the summer, especially to promote Green candidates, we can get guest spots on other shows and request occasional use of empty slots.

Charter Revision Referendum

The referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13. The NL Greens have endorsed the changes, while acknowledging that there are a few provisions that call for tweaking in the future. Chris and Tim have been meeting with the Republicans in order to build a coalition to promote the passage of the proposed changes. The Day, LOT, the NL Republican Party and the NL Green Party are all working to get the word out

There will be a joint Press Conference held on Thursday, March 8, at 10 AM. Representatives from the Republicans, LOT, unions (possibly) and the Charter Commission are slated to speak. Tim was approved to speak at the Press Conference on behalf of the NL Greens.

Tim proposed that the NL Greens share the cost of literature being distributed next weekend in support of a "yes" vote on the Charter revision. Tim designed the flyer, which

would state that it was paid for by the New London Greens and the New London Republicans. The estimated cost for our share is \$200. While members of our group felt some discomfort at sharing billing with GOP, it was acknowledged to be a practical strategy in this case. We have formed (sometimes unusual) alliances in the past around various issues and will continue to in the future as appropriate.

Impeachment Resolution

No new information is available at this time. The NL Greens are not formally endorsing the local effort at this time, since it would likely not help sway our Councilors, but we are supportive of the national Green Party's stand in favor of impeachment.

2007 Elections and Campaign Strategy

The Subcommittee has not met yet, but plans to soon. As soon as the meeting is scheduled, the information will be posted to NL Greens listserv.

We will need to do a better job of recruiting candidates for the 2007 elections than we did in 2005. Once again, we may want work on limiting the number of non-Democratic candidates for Council in order to increase the odds of other parties getting in. Also, if the Charter revision passes, we should run a Mayoral candidate to bring up issues that the other parties will not address; it would also provide an opportunity to promote IRV (instant runoff voting) as a solution to the 'spoiler' issue.

Regional Greens

Sheila suggested that the opening of Fiddleheads will likely foster more regional progressive activity. What should be our role in working with Greens from surrounding towns? Andy provided a brief history of the SECT Green Party and the creation of the New London Greens specifically to focus on local elections. We are already doing some outreach, though not specifically for elections, since the impetus for seeking political office needs to come from within each town. However, we do need to think about a longterm strategy for Green growth in our region.

Connecticut Opposes the War

Bob, Art and Pete have all attended some meetings of SECOW. They were disappointed that COW's leadership has a very cautious platform and is not very inspiring, despite the involvement of some great people and worthy organizations in the group. The film "The Ground Truth" which was shown yesterday at the East Lyme Library is a great call to action. COW is promoting their March 17 rally in Hartford (after the St. Patrick's Day parade) to support nationwide activities on the same day.

Earth Day

Pete reported on meeting with deStefano's green point man. Rather than simply asking the NL City Council to sign on to the Mayors' Accord, they plan to ask for the creation of a commission focused on renewable future, energy independence, etc. (Other towns have

done this, and interim City Manager Martin Berliner had some experience with this sort of action in Mansfield.) NLED has a meeting scheduled with Berliner on Tues 3/13.

Sheila suggested that it would be a good time for interested people to join NL Earth Day.

Announcements

Amy Goodman will speak at Conn College on Wed, 3/7, in the 1962 Room in Crozier-Williams Student Center. The New London Greens are cosponsors and will have a table at the event. Since we paid \$45, we could sell something or request donation, but we will need to consult with Chris regarding the new rules for accepting donations. We are also planning to videotape.

The SECT P&J Network will show the film "The Oil Factor" on Sunday, March 11m at Flavours of Life. Last month's film had about 50 people in attendance.

A bill has been introduced to make English the official language of Connecticut; we may have a good opportunity to partner with CURE, Centro, and other groups on this bill as well as a proposal to allow Connecticut students who lack legal status to attend state colleges at in-state tuition rates.

March 24 will be the first Riverside Park clean-up and potluck of 2007. There was a brief discussion of the park's history, ongoing threats to its continued existence, and possible actions to save park. The possibility of doing something there on April 14, in conjunction with the national Day of Action on Global Warming, was discussed, but most of us felt that a modest action would be more appropriate and manageable than a large-scale event.

There will be a Health Care Forum on March 8 @ 7:00 at East Lyme Town Hall, with Sen. President Pro Tempore Donald Williams.

Next Meeting

Date: Sunday, April 1, Andy's @ 16 Cliff Street Facilitator: Andy

Recording Secretary: Tim