

## **New London Green Party**

April 2, 2017 - 19 Evergreen Avenue, New London

In attendance: John Balchunas, Jennifer Farraher, Daryl Finizio, Mirna Martinez (facilitator), Margarita Mogollón, Bud McAllister, Elijah Singer, Daniel Spurr, Bob Stuller, Ronna Stuller (recorder). Guests: Jason Morris, Emily Garfinkel, Baird Welch-Collins, Maureen Connaughton.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mirna.

1) Minutes from the 3/5 meeting: Ronna moved to approve, 2nd by Bud; passed unanimously with one abstention (Danny S).

2) Treasurer's report: \$76 was spent to renew our PO box; current balance is \$669.48.

3) State Central Committee: Next meeting is on Monday, April 3; Mirna and Ronna plan to attend. All are invited to the Jill Stein event on April 23 and the GPCT Annual Meeting on April 30, both taking place at the Portland Waverly Center.

### **4) Old business**

- (a) Outreach Committee: Has not met.
- (b) Town Committee: Has not met; will schedule an April meeting via email.
- (c) New London Green Youth: Elijah has been elected Chair, Erick is Secretary; next meeting will be held on Friday, March 31, 6pm, at Washington Street Coffee House. The group is thinking about hosting a debate in conjunction with the 2017 municipal election season, with the goal of involving more youth in city politics.
- (d) Fracking waste ban update: NL City Council passed the local ban on March 6; a statewide ban has been proposed in HB 6329, co-sponsored by Rep. Soto and Sen. Somers, which has received a favorable referral out of committee.

### **5) New business**

Potential issues and action for spring/summer 2017

- (a) **Recycling:** Maureen is interested in starting a FB page which will provide information on recycling; let her know if you're interested in being on a small committee to research issues and administer the page.
- (b) **Divestment:** Daryl shared info about NL's past divestment of pension funds from fossil fuels and more recent reversal of the decision; the Pension Committee is responsible for city investment policies, and local unions are potential advocates if we wish to pursue the issue.
- (c) **Freedom City:** Local clergy and immigrant advocates have met with Mayor Passero to ensure rights for all in New London; individuals inspired by the recent ACLU presentation may wish to offer support to efforts already in progress.

### **Updates**

- (1) State of the City: The mayor has announced a potential tax increase of 6%, impacted in part by the state budget allocation to New London, which is still unknown; public reaction has been fairly muted so far. Budget must be approved by June 1.
- (2) Education and the Board: Budget deliberations are dominating Board of Education as well; advocates for our public schools are encouraged to attend BOE meetings.

- (3) Riverside Park/NENL: NEIGHBOR DAY will be held on Sunday, May 21 - picnic at Riverside Park from 10am-1pm. There will be park clean-ups on April 23 and May 6. Efforts continue to make the stairway between Winthrop School and Riverside Park a priority.
- (4) Thinking Green upcoming shows: 4/4 Jonathan Pelto on state budget, 4/11 Tim Hanser & Mike Passero on commuter rail, 4/18 Owen Charles & James Connolly, Shoreline Greens.

**Announcements and upcoming events:**

Wednesday, April 5: Meeting on rCredits (11am)

Thursday, April 6: "Years of Living Dangerously" film and discussion, Conn College

Saturday, April 8: Advocating for Clean Energy, Kitchen Gallery (10am)

Saturday, April 15: McDonald Park build-out and picnic (9am)

Wednesday, April 19: CT Commuter Rail Council, NL City Hall (6pm)

Saturday, April 22: March for Science in East Lyme; meet at Hole in the Wall beach

Saturday, May 6: Citywide clean-up and hazardous waste drop-off at NLHS

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm. Next meeting will be Sunday, May 7, 7pm.

*Approved on May 7, 2017.*