

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PROGRESSIVES  
February 1, 2018**

In Attendance:	Emily Adams	Rebecca Elgie
	Jason Cortell	Bernie Fetterer
	Cait Darfler	Ian Golden
	Deborah Dawson	Henry Granison
	Ronny Hardaway	Jen Karius
	Mario Hernandez	Marc Messing
	Kris Hodges	Susan Multer
	Kim Knight	
	Martha Laux	
	Ted Laux	
	Katy Nicholson	

Co-chair **Kim Knight** called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Members and guests in attendance were invited to participate in a public comment period. **Cait Darfler** announced that anyone who supports affordable housing in Trumansburg is welcome to support the pending mixed income housing project in that Village by purchasing a “Greater TBurg Adapting for the Future sign for only \$10. The signs you purchase will be used on lawns throughout the Town of Ulysses.

**Susan Multer** expressed her surprise and disappointment that the Executive Board did not consult with the membership about the timing of TCP’s endorsement in the Congressional primary race. Multer said that she hoped that the members would have more input in the 2020 races. **Knight** and **Emily Adams** explained that TCP was more or less pressured into endorsing early, due to NYPAN’s rules and early endorsements by the two other NYPAN chapters in the NY23rd. They were optimistic that the problems with timing will be solved by 2020.

**Committee Reports:**

The **Political Action Committee** reported on the outcome of the members’ endorsement vote last month. With half of our members voting, Ian Golden won TCP’s endorsement. Our endorsement gave Golden NYPAN’s endorsement and enabled his campaign to apply for Our Revolution’s endorsement and assistance. Thank you to those who voted, and we hope that those of you who did not vote will be sure to vote in the June primary and in the September general election.

**Adams** reported on the NYPAN fundraiser and conference held in NYC last weekend. Notable honorees and guests included Mayor and Mrs. DiBlasio, labor leader Eddie Kay, investigative

reporter Nomiki Konst, NYC Council member Jumaane Williams, and keynote speaker Nina Turner. Adams reported that:

- the NYPAN fundraising event netted between \$25,000 and \$35,000;
- New York may soon be the 5<sup>th</sup> state to receive statewide recognition from Our Revolution;
- Jumaane Williams is likely to run against Kathy Hochul for Lieutenant Governor this year; and
- NYPAN's draft of a letter to Stephanie Miner, urging her to run for Governor, was leaked to the press and caused a minor sensation.

**Darfler** stated that she would submit a written report from the **Environmental Justice Committee**. She did, and it is attached to these minutes

I am pleased to report that **Darfler** will be named to the **Tompkins County Environmental Management Council** later this month. She will be serving as the EMC's vice-chair.

Congratulations, Cait!!

There were no other Committee Reports for January 2018.

The discussion turned to action items for 2018.

Membership dues for 2018 will be \$27 (again), and are payable by February 28.

### **2018 Elections:**

The Village of Trumansburg will be electing a new mayor and two trustees in March. TCP has already endorsed Ben Carver and Ben Darfler in the trustees races. There is only one mayoral candidate, who will be running on both the Democratic and Republican Party lines. **Darfler** will let the Board and the members know if there is anything more that TCP can do with respect to this race.

The Village of Lansing will be electing two trustees in April. **Deborah Dawson** reported that two incumbents will be running on the Community Party line, and there is no indication that they will be opposed. It is unlikely that TCP would take any role in this election.

**Adams** reported that Susan Beckley, an active and effective proponent of New York single payer, will be running against State Sen. O'Mara. Beckley was a strong Bernie supporter, and, although she is a registered Republican, she is extremely progressive in her views. She will not be challenging O'Mara in the Republican primary, but will instead run against him as an Independent in the general election. If elected, she will caucus with the Democrats. Beckley is already in touch with Trailblazers PAC, and **Adams** has put her in touch with Jesse Lenney of the Working Families Party. Beckley will not seek TCP's endorsement, since she believes it would hurt as much as help in O'Mara's district. However, individual members are invited to help her campaign if they wish.

No one is sure if Senators Helming and Seward will be opposed. **Ronny Hardaway** reported that Kenan Baldrige, who ran against Helming in 2016, is considering running again.

**Dawson** reported that Barbara Lifton will likely run for re-election to the State Assembly. There is no news as to whether she will be primaried or opposed in the general election. If Lifton is opposed, TCP may consider endorsing her.

The Board next considered the appropriate level of organizational support that TCP should provide for Ian Golden's Congressional campaign. **Dawson** stressed that, despite TCP's endorsement of Golden, TCP must maintain its separate and independent organizational status, and must not act as an arm of the Golden campaign. Golden himself indicated that he understood that position and that he did not want his campaign to be a divisive issue for TCP. **Marc Messing** pointed out that, whatever level of organizational support we offer must be consistently offered to every candidate we endorse. It was noted that the only thing TCP did for the candidates it endorsed last year was to announce our endorsement and allow the candidates to publicize our endorsement. The Board agreed that, as an organization, TCP would take the following steps in support of Golden's candidacy:

- Post an announcement of TCP's endorsement on our website, and include information about Golden and his platform/issues. (**Hardaway** will compose this announcement, using information that the Golden campaign will provide to him,)
- **Knight** will post an announcement on the TCP Facebook page, with a link to the lengthier and more informative website announcement.
- **Adams** will announce the endorsement and discuss Golden and his platform in the TCP newsletter. She will also give information on how interested TCP members can contact, and volunteer to help, the Golden campaign.
- Board members will contact local media (Ithaca Times/Ithaca.com, Ithaca Voice, TruthSayers, WRFI, etc.) to announce that TCP has endorsed Golden, and why.

**Dawson** stressed that these announcements and contacts should be timed so that they are out in public circulation before the February 12 straw poll event that TCP is sponsoring with the TCDC.

The Board discussed planning for the September NYPAN meeting, which will be in Ithaca. The weekends that do not conflict with Cornell or IC events fall on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The availability of possible guest speakers will likely determine which weekend we choose for our meeting. Possible guests include Nina Turner, Richard Wolff, Kirsten Gillibrand, Mark Green, and Jumaane Williams. **Adams** and **Knight** will be the core of the planning committee for this event.

The Board will also have to plan for an annual membership meeting, which the By-Laws require to be held in October. Mention of the By-Laws prompted suggestions that they be reviewed at the next monthly meeting of the Executive Board. Board members should review the By-Laws before the March meeting, and be prepared to discuss any changes they would recommend at that time.

**Jason Cortell** reported that he, Knight, and **Jen Karius** met on January 31 to begin working on TCP's platform document. **Cortell** opined that it was going to take quite a lot of time to come up with a finished product. **Karius** presented a short slide show of her vision for the platform, based on her interpretation of "our revolution" as an inclusive call to action against the political and socio-economic status quo created by and for the benefit of the 1%. She urged the Board to create a visionary platform that would inspire our members to revitalize our democracy, to fight against the oppression of the status quo, and "to do the things that Bernie was advocating." The question, of course, is how to create such a platform. **Karius** suggested a process open to our entire membership from the beginning. Others opined that it would be better to have something to present before calling a general membership meeting. **Cortell** favored a "word cloud" approach, and introduced an app that would allow us to create three word clouds: one for "Problems," one for "Vision," and one for "Solutions." The group suggested words to populate each cloud. Eventually, the Board agreed that each committee chair should send **Cortell** their suggestions for problems, vision, and solutions relating to the issues within his or her committee's purview. These suggestions, which should be submitted within the next couple of weeks, will assist **Cortell** to begin constructing usable word clouds.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:20 There was no Executive Session.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be on March 1.

#### **ACTION ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:**

- **Hardaway** to draft website announcement with input from **Golden** campaign
- **Knight** to place announcement on Facebook page, with link to website article
- **Adams** to write newsletter relating to endorsement
- **Board members** to draft announcements to media
- **Board members** to review By-Laws before March meeting
- **Board members** to send platform suggestions to **Cortell** ASAP

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Environmental Justice Committee

Author: Cait Darfler

### Committee Update for January 2018

1. DEC Announces City of Ithaca is New York's 17th Certified Climate Smart Community - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/1d751ca>

2. One huge repository for work going on in Tompkins County is through the Environmental Management Council (EMC) - <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/emc>

Becoming involved with the EMC requires a time commitment of 1-2 meetings a month and yet allows participants to have a cursory knowledge of many of the issues are project in the County. EMC meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 4 PM, at the Old Jail Conference Room (125 East Court Street, downtown Ithaca). I HIGHLY, HIGHLY recommend TCP members consider attending. It's through these meetings that I have learned the MOST about ways for folks to help with Environmental projects in our County and even the broader finger lakes region. I will continue to share information to the membership from the EMC where applicable but attend a meeting and you'll see how much is going on that doesn't make most conversations.

Please feel free to contact me at [environment@tcprogressives.org](mailto:environment@tcprogressives.org) with any questions about the EMC.