WCO Minutes

Meeting to plan Candidates’ Forum

August 31, 2022

In Attendance: Kathy Jungermann, Ellen McDuffie, Cindy Kehoe, Maureen Bell, Dawn Bower, Pat McLaine.

Meeting called to order at 5:25 PM by Ellen McDuffie, there is no Agenda.

The WCO will host a Candidates’ Forum for candidates representing Windham County in both the State Senate and the House.

Pat has contacted the following candidates who have agreed to attend:

**House**: Heather Chase D and Eva Ryan R.

**Senate**: Wendy Harrison D, Nader Hashim D, Richard Morton R, Tim Wessel I. Mark Coester I is a ‘maybe’ at this time.

The forum will be held upstairs in the Meeting House on Tuesday, September 13 from 7-9PM. Michael McLaine, Town Moderator, has agreed to moderate. Jim Lawler, Town Constable, will be asked to attend.

Publicity: This event will be announced at the Selectboard meeting on 9/6. Information will be placed in the Journal/Shopper and the Chester Telegraph newspapers, and on the Front Porch Forum by Ellen. She will also send out a town-wide email about the event. Handouts will be available at the Windham Town Office and be available at the Tag sale on 9/3.

Pat will purchase bottled water. Kathy will take pictures.

Candidates will be encouraged to arrive at the Meeting House by 6:30. They will be supplied a list of draft questions in advance of the forum (see below).

Format:

* + Pat will welcome the audience and introduce Mike McLaine, the moderator.
	+ Mike will introduce the candidates.
	+ Each candidate will be asked to prepare a brief bio (approximately 1 minute) to introduce themselves before the start the forum.
	+ Candidates will have approximately 2 minutes to respond to questions.
	+ Additional questions submitted on index cards by the audience members will be picked at random by the moderator if time permits.
	+ Alternate question and answer period will be held until the end of the program, then candidates will be asked to give a closing statement.

Pat will contact both Becca Balint and Carolyn Partridge and ask if they would agree to welcome and introduce the candidates. The parking issue was discussed and a volunteer to direct guests to a parking spot will be sought out.

Ellen adjourned the meeting at 6:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Jungermann

Acting Secretary

Draft of sample questions:

What skills and experience do you bring to the position of representative/senator?

What three issues are at the top of your list to address this year in Montpelier?

If elected, what key issues are you prepared to address in Montpelier?

How will you address the high cost of education for residents of rural areas like Windham?

What ways can Vermont address the current housing shortage?

How do you propose to solve the current housing shortage?

What practical steps would you take to begin to address climate change in Vermont?

How can Vermont help immigrants transition successfully to living and working in our state?

How can Vermont support small farms/agriculture?