

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PROGRESSIVES**

January 10, 2017

In Attendance:	Emily Adams	Linda Andrei
	Cait Darfler	Don Barber
	Deborah Dawson	Max Della Pia
	Ronny Hardaway	Rebecca Elgis
	Mario Hernandez	Bernie Fetterer
	Kris Hodges	Rick Gallant
	Kim Knight	Ben Gardiner
	Martha Laux	Jim Luschwitz
	Ted Laux	Barbara Lynch
		Susan Multer
		Victor Tiffany

Co-chair **Kim Knight** called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Members and guests in attendance were invited to participate in a public comment period.

Charles Whelan, Congressional primary candidate in the NY23rd, spoke about his career in economics and labor relations, working for the benefit of working people and their families. He emphasized the need for a national economic strategy that would benefit the working class. To learn more about Mr. Whelan, please visit charleswhelanforcongress.com.

Rick Gallant, Congressional primary candidate in the NY23rd, spoke about his career as a teacher and his involvement in NYSUT (he is currently on the Board of Directors), roles which gave him grounded experience in problem solving. He advocated for free public college and university tuition, interest free educational loans for students attending private institutions, and affordable healthcare for everyone. To learn more about Mr. Gallant, please visit RickForNY23.com.

Max Della Pia, Congressional primary candidate in the NY23rd, spoke about his career in the military and in public service, emphasizing that the residents of the NY23rd need a public servant who will fight for them. He emphasized that we need universal health care, a fair tax plan that doesn't burden our children with excessive debt, and a Congressional representative who does not cater to special interests. To learn more about Mr. Della Pia, please visit maxdellapia.com.

Linda Andrei, Congressional primary candidate in the NY23rd, spoke about the devastation of our broken health care system, which she observed as a practicing cardiologist for 30 years. She advocated for universal single payer health insurance, and emphasized that we must reclaim our democracy from a political system that is bent on privatizing everything. To learn more about Ms. Andrei, please visit [AndreiMD4congress](http://AndreiMD4congress.com).

Victor Tiffany reported that the Movement School for Revolution/ Liberty Tree Foundation presenters have not yet finalized their travel schedule to the northeast, although he thinks they will be here the third or fourth weekend of April. He will advise Emily Adams as soon as he knows.

Ben Darfler, a candidate for Village of Trumansburg Trustee, spoke via zoom. He is running to support the Hamilton Square project in the Village, and is seeking TCP's endorsement in that race. **Cait Darfler** read a letter from **Ben Carver**, a candidate for a second seat on the Village of Trumansburg Board, who is running in opposition to an unnamed candidate who is trying to stop the Hamilton Square project from going forward. Carver is also seeking our endorsement. *Note:* By an online poll conducted since the January 10 meeting, the TCP membership voted to endorse Darfler and Carver.

There were no Committee Reports for December 2017.

The timing and process for endorsing a candidate in the primary Congressional race consumed the remainder of our meeting, and the discussion was enthusiastic and wide-ranging.

On the issue of process, it was ultimately decided that we would poll our membership and endorse based on scoring a rank order vote. This decision was reached only after a long and tortuous debate about what the goals and purposes of our endorsement should be; whether there might be an alternative to endorsement, *e.g.*, issue scoring; whether Board members should analyze the candidates' positions for the benefit of the members and whether we could do that objectively; and whether we should be voting on issues, personalities, or electability.

On the issue of timing, there was a great deal of pressure to poll our members and announce our endorsement before the Tompkins County Democratic Committee straw poll scheduled for January 24. **Emily Adams** pointed out that TCP is already disadvantaged by its failure to poll our members sooner, because the other two NYPAN chapters in the NY23rd already voted to endorse Ian Golden. Given NYPAN's rules about endorsing in Congressional, TCP's vote may not even matter now that Golden has the endorsement of 2/3 of the relevant chapters. NYPAN could just endorse Golden, regardless of how TCP votes. If NYPAN endorses Golden, Golden will also get Our Revolution's endorsement, since NYPAN is now an Our Revolution member. The consensus was that TCP will poll its members and make an endorsement before January 24.

Note: At a meeting on January 11, the Executive Committee of the TCDC decided to postpone its straw poll vote on the Congressional primary candidates until February.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:15 There was no Executive Session.

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