

April 5, 2018
Tompkins County Progressives Monthly Meeting Minutes

Present: Jason Cortell, Cait Darfler, Ted Laux, Martha Lux, Emily Adams, Kris Hodges (stand-in Secretary), Henry Granison

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT: Sunday April 22 – noon–5 Greenstar Earth Day events

Jason recently sent out a survey to all members to gather feedback for TCP. A quick review of the responses so far brought forth a suggestion that TCP not have an Executive Board – that's for larger organizations. Instead, establish officers/more informal structure.

To change the nature of the board, current bylaws would need to be changed via a special meeting. Current bylaws also state that EC members have to be chairs of a committee; consideration of changing that requirement might help improve the likelihood of people stepping up. Jason will consult the bylaws and make a suggestion about how to proceed. This could also be an opportunity to simplify the bylaws.

There was discussion about statewide v. local focus for TCP

NYPAN provides important umbrella benefits (insurance, tax compliance, etc)

And some of our local issues feed into broader state level issues too. As well, association with other like-minded groups helps to build power.

Endorsements have tended to divide TCPs membership; something for us to consider going forward.

Ways to engage members:

A local issue to champion, like a push for a plastic bag ban in Tompkins County.

Instant run-off voting capabilities – could be a cause to support

Our email list, Bern newsletter and Facebook page are real assets for communication. People often want to do something but don't know about the opportunities.

Could load up more content onto the TCP calendar

Bring in speakers

Jumaane could be draw for TCP meeting and an opportunity to expose him to more rural issues in the State.

Local officials

Improve connections to TCDC

Progressive movie (sponsor one at Cinemapolis).

Get Me Roger Stone director is a friend of NYPAN

We will continue pursuing a September 29-30 NYPAN meeting in Ithaca

Emily will contact Leslie Dankes Burke/Trailblazers to see if they would be interested in participating; we could consider some training events to help volunteers for the fall election cycle.

Kris and Jason will look into some venue options.

Past conferences have been 2 days; Saturday and Sunday.

One day is outward facing – speakers and politicians, experts

Inward facing day – TCP meeting; Trailblazers training; media training

Meeting concluded at 8PM