

**Centerport Harbor Civic Association
General Membership Meeting, May 14,2024**

Present: Betsy Cambria, Bob Berding, Bob Lopez, George Pullis, Mike Regan, Jim Walker, Mary Werner, Judy White, and Carol Zwiulich

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speakers:

Nancy Goroff (Democratic Candidate 1st Congressional District for Congress)

- Ms. Goroff is a scientist, teacher, and community leader who helped the founding of the group, The Long Island School of Alliance.
- **Concerns:** Protect democracy, women's right to choose, climate change, and helping the economy.
- She ran against Lee Zeldin during the 2020 elections for New York's 1st Congressional District.

Kyle Hill, Representative (Policy Director) for John Avlon (Democratic Candidate 1st Congressional District for Congress)

- **Mr. Hill** Spent 10 years on capitol hill and worked on Steve Israel's campaign.
- **Mr. Hill noted that Mr. Avlon** is a historian, author, and worked as an anchor for CNN.
- **Concerns:** tackling the housing affordability crisis on Long Island; making sure that the developers are doing it fairly. Women's right to choose; climate change.

Questions/Topics:

Aid for Israel. Problems across America on the university level.

- **Ms. Goroff and Mr. Avlon** believe that aid must continue to Ukraine.
- **Ms. Goroff** believes that Israel has a right to exist.
- **Mr. Hill: Mr. Avlon** agrees that hate and intimidation are unacceptable.

Health Care System. How to handle Affordable Health Care:

- **Mr. Hill: Mr. Avlon** supports public options, giving people more choices.
- **Ms. Goroff:** noted that subsidies need to be increased; Medicare needs to be used as a public health option; the Medicare age should be lowered to age 50.

Immigration:

- **Ms. Goroff:** Senator James Langford secured a bill for immigrants to be moved into the system as quickly as possible. If the immigrants don't belong in the US, they need to be sent home. Dreamers need a pathway to citizenship. The country needs people who can come to a compromise.
- **Mr. Hill: Mr. Avlon** supports the Border Security Bill. He wants to be involved in a bipartisan effort to fix immigration issue.

Gun laws:

- **Mr. Hill: Mr. Avlon** supports reinstating the Assault Weapons Ban. He wants to close the loophole so that people get a complete background check before purchasing a gun.
- **Ms. Goroff:** Wants the Assault Weapon Ban reinstated.

Cyber Security/Cyber Fraud:

- **Ms. Goroff:** wants municipalities to receive grants to upgrade their cyber security. She is open to suggestions.
- **Mr. Hill and Mr. Avlon:** have not yet discussed this topic.

Infrastructure: Where are the federal dollars that were earmarked for infrastructure?

It was noted that Long Island has not seen this “partnership” between state and federal level.

- **Mr. Hill noted that Mr. Avlon** wants to secure the money that Long Island needs.
- **Ms. Goroff:** Cited that we need to coordinate with the different levels of government to make this work.

Sewers:

Ms. Goroff and Mr. Hill (Mr. Avlon): both agreed that there is a need for local governments to access Federal infrastructure funding for upgrading sewers and septic systems.

Do the candidates support the SALT Deduction?:

Ms. Goroff and Mr. Hill (Mr. Avlon): both noted that full deduction needs to be restored.

***It was noted that:**

- Additional information on the Candidates can be found on their campaign websites. The teams of the respective candidates remained present to help field private questions after the adjournment of the meeting.
- The Democratic Primary will be held on June 25. Early voting begins on June 15 through June 23.

Centerport Senior Beach House Restaurant:

It was noted that the Town has expressed an interest in possibly establishing a public restaurant at the Senior Beach House.

Jellyfish Fish Proposal: Judy W. noted that Anne Wesp had a meeting with Johnny Heil, owner of Jellyfish.

Guest Speakers at the next General Membership Meeting:

- **Executive Director for Sea Grant: Jonathan Pennock**

Stephanie Bontempi (Suffolk County Legislator):

- Ms. Bontempi will address County issues and the process of securing County money for purchasing property to create parks.
- **Student Ambassadors**

Next General Membership Meeting: June 24, 2024, at Harborfields Library at 7:00 pm.