

Rappahannock Indivisible—We The People Meeting
March 15, 2017

- *Called to order 7:10
- *Introduction/Agenda: What the subgroups will do
- *Introductions all around the room, including the group from Christchurch School
- *Slight revision of mission statement: Add the words “in a peaceful manner” after the word “voice.”
- *Diana Jamison, leading the meeting, noted we need to create a website.
- *Ruth Micklem explained non-partisan action: focusing on issues, holding all elective officials accountable on issues we, collectively, find important, inviting people of all parties to speak, being inclusive of everyone’s voices. Note: If only one voice is willing to come to talk to us, it’s okay to listen to that one voice—so long as the opportunity was offered to all.
- *Suggestion: Add “non-partisan” to the mission statement. “We are a non-partisan group who will make our voices heard in a peaceful manner...”
- *Kristi Van Audenhove reviewed the survey results.
- *Noted: RI-WTP made a conscious decision to suggest that those who want to engage in electoral politics do so with the party of their choice, rather than via RI-WTP
- *There was some discussion on a concern for a safe space for women, young people, people from various groups: What happens when the conversation goes from civil to hostile? Answer: Outreach Committee to determine how best to do, using a mediator who is a neutral party. Do workshops on how to have civil conversations.
- *Attendees gathered with group leaders and exchanged contact information.
- *Next general meeting April 20 (**since changed to April 27**) to hear from a civil rights attorney. This meeting should be well-publicized. Attorney will address how to create and implement an effective strategy: how to go beyond being angry to communicate with legislators, et al.
- *Lancaster Dems meeting 3/27: Lancaster Repubs usually meet third Tuesday at Chesapeake Bank; Tea Party meets at the old Ruritan Club in upper Lancaster County. The interracial conversation group meets monthly, currently at Mr. Olive Baptist Church—next meeting March 28th for a movie about Jesse Owens at the Olympics and discussion thereof. Potluck at 5 p.m.
- *The students from Christchurch School said they were excited to get involved locally. Avery Shivers said, this is “really where change starts.”
- *Ms. Hines spoke about the Macedonia Community Development Corporation which is forming the Norther Neck Youth Leadership Academy for young people aged 13-19 to build youth leaders.
- *Suggestion: Thank Wittman for being opposed to the AHCA
- *Where do we go from here?
 - Group 1 Communications Platform Team-websites and social media
 - Group 2 Public Awareness/Media Attention
 - Group 3 Community Outreach
 - Group 4 Citizens Lobby Group/Civil Conversations Team: organizing around issues, developing methods to communicate effectively with representative et al
 - Group 5 Action Team: organizing calls, letters, town halls, etc. Note: Sanil mail should be postmarked from within the politician’s district.
- *Meeting adjourned 8:25

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Bonomi, recorder pro tem

