

Plymouth Area Democrats
Minutes of the Meeting, May 16, 2012

Chairman Bob Lamb welcomed members to the May meeting and recognized our elected delegates and former representatives who were in attendance: Suzanne Smith, Mary Cooney, Deb Reynolds, Martha Richards, Sue Ford, Sid Lovett, Tin Taylor, Dr. Sheryl Shirley, PSU Democratic Advisor and Amber Barbagallo, President of the Plymouth State University Democrats. The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

In Treasurer Barbara Therriault's absence, Lamb reported that PAD has \$2,359.33 in the bank account.

Announcements

Sue Ford encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Grafton County meeting on Saturday, 5/19/12 from 9:30 to 11:30, at the Canaan Meeting House. The main speaker will be Annie Kuster. Ms. Ford, aided by Suzanne Smith, reported on the "craziness" going on in Concord, including the defeat of the Granny D Bill to which a number of unrelated amendments were added.

Carl and Nancy Martland of Sugar Hill, NH, then took the floor to make an appeal to the group. They have formed an organization called "Grafton County Bedrock Democrats," which aims to raise money to aid the Democratic programs and candidates running in the 2012 campaign. Their presentation emphasized the critical importance of the upcoming elections and the urgent need to raise money in this cause.

Joyce Weston then asked again for money, but this time smaller amounts to help the "March for Meals", a fundraiser supporting various senior services in the area. \$143 were raised and passed along to the Plymouth Senior Center.

Martha Richards took the floor to discuss a recent victory – the approval of the biomass plant for the Grafton County Jail, which will reduce the oil use of the jail from 100,000 gallons annually to just 10,000 gallons. It passed with an unheard of 20/0 vote, a truly bipartisan expression. Martha received an ovation for her achievement of the jail construction, which came in under budget! Bob Lamb added that it was imperative that we help Martha return to the office of County Commissioner.

Sid Lovett announced a party for Bob Crowley on June 24 at the Italian Farmhouse.

Sheryl Shirley then took the podium to present a plaque of appreciation to Amber Barbagallo, President of the PSU Democrats, who is graduating on 5/19 and then immediately taking a job with the State Democrats in Concord. Amber was praised for her enthusiasm and dedication. Amber, in turn, promised to continue fighting for our cause and expressed that she felt lucky that

such a dynamic group was active, embracing, and so close during her years at PSU. She added that it was not “only for the food.”

Bob Lamb then announced that we would host Jackie Cilley and Maggie Hassam, the two Democratic candidates for Governor, at our next meeting. The format will feature 5 questions, on different subjects, from the floor asked to both candidates, and then an open mike session. We expect a large crowd (between 125 and 180 people) since many area groups will be notified of this event.

Our featured speaker for the evening, Grafton County Attorney Lara J. Saffo, was delayed in court and, regrettably, was unable to get to Plymouth in time. Bob Lamb expressed the hope that we could reschedule her at another time and opened the floor to other discussions. Patsy Kendell announced that the Governor’s Council had come up with a \$45K grant for her transportation project. Then there was a brief discussion of gubernatorial candidate Maggie Hassam’s fundraising practices. Finally Bob Lamb announced that the June meeting would be his last as Chair of PAD and that Paul Phillips would be stepping in as Chair for the remainder of Lamb’s term.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Weston

