

Plymouth Area Democrats
Minutes of the Meeting, March 20, 2013

Acting Chairman Paul Phillips called the March meeting to order at 6:30pm, following an scrumptuous dinner and social session. Paul started the meeting by reviewing his tenure, which happened to fall during the presidential election and was fraught with highs and lows – dark days and light.

Phillips then recognized the notable attendees, who included Martha Richards, Val Scarborough, newly-elected Selectman Bill Bolton, Bob Lamb, Suzanne Smith, Carol Friedrich, and Phil Preston. There were a few notable absences because of other engagements.

He announced that the April meeting date is being changed and that the new date will be announced soon. He then asked for reports from the floor.

Denise Castonguay spoke briefly about taking advantage of the fundraising opportunities that will occur during the Plymouth 250th Anniversary celebrations this summer. There will be no booth fees, which means any profit will directly benefit PAD.

Peter Holman of Bridgewater spoke about the gun control issue and the unfortunate way it is being handled in Washington. The response to his communication from Congresswoman Ayotte was a disappointing but predictable form letter. Peter's primary concern is about the emergence of "mental incompetence" as a measure of one's right to buy guns. (Peter's wife is a psychiatric nurse and has experience on abuse of the "mental incompetence" argument.) Ayotte is favoring mental health review as a means of gun control, although when she was Attorney General of NH in 2007, a similar case came before her. The defendant in that case was not denied the right to own a gun in spite of being judged mentally incompetent.

Martha Richards announced that the proceeds from "Keep the Heat On" has exceeded \$36,000 – the best result ever. Dead River Company has donated \$5,000. Unfortunately, most of the money has already been used by Plymouth Area Community Closet to help our neighbors in need.

She also reported that the old County Jail would be demolished and "repurposed" as much as possible, and that the biomass plant is coming along well. It should be on line in the fall.

The Grafton County Democrats meeting will be held at the Common Man on April 27. Sue Ford and Martha Richards will be sending out notices on this soon.

Ray Burton is doing well on his chemotherapy treatments, although he has lost weight and complains of dizziness. He has been attending meetings and seems perky and sharp.

PAD Officer Elections

Before voting for the open positions in the Plymouth Area Democrats officer slate, Paul announced some new committee heads. Val Scarborough has come on board to handle our public relations and communications. Bill Bolton has taken over the web site and will deal with technology issues. We are currently looking for a hospitality chair, but in the meantime, Joyce Weston continues in this role with a solid committee of helpers.

The officers serve a two-year term. Due to some changes last year, when Bob Lamb stepped down as Chair and Paul Phillips took over as acting chair, the position extends only one year. Martha Richards nominated co-chairs for this truncated term: Bob Lamb and Lou Lieto. This nomination was seconded by Becky Noel. No other nominations were brought forward and the "team" was unanimously approved.

A nomination of Barbara Therriault for Vice Chair came from Bill Bolton and was seconded. Barb was also unanimously elected.

Finally, Barbara Fahey was nominated, seconded, and approved for Treasurer.

Thanks

Martha Richards and Bob Lamb took the floor to thank Paul Phillips for the terrific job he did as acting chair. They expressed how lucky we were to have him in that role and presented him with a mock-up of a plaque that is still in production and a bottle of champagne.

Paul responded with sincere thanks and with a story about his experience in Bristol on election day, which he spent in conversation with Free Staters, including a frequent blogger on the Granite Blog (?) who lives in Florida most of the year but still votes in NH.

Town Caucus

The meeting then broke up into separate towns to elect the town chairs and other positions.

We adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Weston, Secretary