

Plymouth Area Democrats  
March 18, 2015

Meeting Minutes

6:30 Call to Order/Business Meeting - Joyce Weston

Joyce introduced Martha Richards, Kevin Maes, Phil Preston, Tink Taylor, Val Scarborough, Deb Reynolds, Mike Conklin, Bill Bolton, Colin Pio (NHDP Finance Director), and Liz Wester (NHDP House Caucus Director).

Colin gave a brief update, and Liz gave a slightly longer one saying they hoped to work with all the town committees to get more involvement. Both talked about revving everyone up for 2016.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Fahey gave a brief report for 2014 and 2015, attached. In 2014 the PAD checking account had a balance of \$3059 and finished the year with a balance of \$2523. Revenue was \$6373 expenses of \$6909, for reduction in the checking balance of \$536. In 2015, revenue was \$975 and expense was \$1153, for a reduction in checking of \$178 to a current balance of \$2456.

Martha Richards made an announcement that Chris Ebner's PHRS "Ski for Heat" cross-country race brought in a total of \$1066 for "Keep the Heat On", the fuel-assistance fund-raiser benefiting Plymouth Area Community Closet (PACC). Martha said PACC has spent over \$40,000 for heat assistance, much of it kerosene. Kerosene costs remain high. She was thankful for the good coverage of the race in the newspaper and hopes it will be an annual event.

Martha also announced Diane Downing's offer to have the Italian Farmhouse host a dinner/fund-raiser for Keep the Heat On, on April 9 from 5 to 9pm. The cost will be \$25, not including tax and tip.

Martha announced the Grafton County Spring Summit for Saturday April 11 at The Common Man in Plymouth from 10:00 to 12:00. Also revving up everyone up for 2016.

Deb Reynolds gave a big thanks to Denise, Val, Veronica, and everyone who has made KTHO a big success.

Martha gave a brief report of the Commissioner's work for the county, The new budget includes many cuts to the Nursing Home, Life Safety project, and other areas. There are no new residents and revenues are down. The House of Corrections needs to offer more social services but cannot, even though CADY and Drug Court have been a big success. Because of the state cuts, the county portion of our taxes could increase. We need more state-level funding.

Joyce talked about our April program with Nick Toumpas, Commissioner of the NH Department of Health and Human Services.

Colin Pio talked about the NH state party regarding the purple states. CO, AL, and NC had big losses, but NH did not do too badly. And it was better than 2010. We had great candidates. Our community in particular did well. NHDP is hiring staff now to help on the Voter File.

Liz Wester - Committee to Elect House Democrats - they have some goals of increasing the number of Democrats in the House in 2016, 2018, and 2020. She recognized Kevin Maes as a new Democrat in 2014 who was not there in 2013. She emphasized the local community has to come out and do the door knocking, making phone calls, etc. She said we need to hold the Republicans accountable.

Joyce introduced the information for the town committees. She said PAD can help with some of the duties outlined by the state party, such as holding monthly meetings, keeping people informed, and getting more people involved.

Deb Reynolds pointed out how much local support there was to get Travis Bennett elected.

Announcements were made about PAD's upcoming meetings.

Caucus Elections began with each town congregating at their own table, talking about the State Convention, to be held in September instead of June, electing officers, and filling out forms.

Meeting adjourned about 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara B. Fahey