

Plymouth Area Democrats June Meeting
6/15/2016

Chair Joyce Weston, explained we had a very full agenda with some unexpected but welcome speakers, and we would proceed with them before starting the business meeting.

Joyce introduced gubernatorial candidate Steve Marchand.

Steve Marchand, Democratic candidate for Governor, former mayor of Portsmouth, NH, spoke about his background, his education, experience, qualifications, and vision for the future of NH if he is elected Governor.

Chair Joyce Weston began the meeting asking for a moment of silence for the 49 killed in Orlando a few days prior.

Chair Joyce Weston recognized the notable people in attendance:

- Martha Richards, County Commissioner
- Suzanne Smith, HD 8 and Hebron Town Chair
- Rep. Mary Cooney, HD 8
- Rep. Susan Ford
- Candidate Charlie Chandler, NH Senate District 2
- Candidate Maeve Lawlor, NH House
- Candidate Dick Osborne, NH House
- Deb Reynolds, Former state Senator
- Val Scarborough, former Plymouth Select Board
- Tink Taylor, Former house Rep.
- Fran Taylor, Holderness Town Committee Chair
- David Peeler, Campton Democratic Town Committee Chair
- Marilyn Lieto, Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chair
- Paul Phillips, Plymouth Town Committee Chair
- Gary McCool, Rumney Town Committee Chair
- Suzanne Smith, Hebron Town Committee Chair

The meeting minutes from May 2016 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Fahey said the PAD revenue for 2016 was revenue to date \$175, expenses to date \$546, checking balance \$8,225. Barbara talked about the upcoming Plymouth Area Garden Tour and the need for more volunteers - showed the poster, mentioned the blue donation boxes on the front tables.

Joyce introduced former State Senator Deb Reynolds who came to the podium to present a plaque and give a warm, knowledgeable speech, as Deb said, to a very special person, County Commissioner Martha Richards, who is retiring this year, having started in her position as Commissioner in 2006, with a brief two year break in 2010. Martha gave a brief speech thanking her fellow Commissioners and talking about the highlights of her time in office.

NH State Representative Suzanne Smith then gave an equally warm and knowledgeable presentation and plaque for Mary Cooney, who was retiring

as a the Representative to the NH House, after many years. Plaques to be delivered later.

Joyce introduced Charlie Chandler, candidate for the NH Senate, District 2. Charlie explained his interest in running for the Senate position, his long history in NH, experience, education, and so forth. And talked about his interest in serving the state.

Joyce introduced Bill Bolton, currently Selectman in the Town of Plymouth, who is running for the County Commissioner position, held by Martha Richards, who is retiring. Bill gave a brief explanation of his background, long history and commitment to the Town of Plymouth, education and experience, and interest in the position of County Commissioner.

Colin Van Ostern's campaign manager invited everyone to an upcoming event for Colin who is also running for Governor.

Speaker Kris Blevens, friend of Annie Kuster, gave an excellent, personal story and presentation about her families experience with the opiate crisis. Kriss mentioned she is the former Miss New Hampshire, and currently a successful make-up artist and entrepreneur. Her story was about her families many efforts made to help her daughter-in-law Amber's struggle with addiction and opiates which sadly, ended with Amber's death from an overdose in 2014 at age 22. And continued with Kriss's many efforts to understand the crisis and fill the gaps for treatment. Kriss is very knowledgeable about the drug situation for many young people and has spent the time since Amber's death to raise awareness and to raise funds and support to significantly improve the services for users and to found Amber's Place in Manchester, N.H. Kriss answered many questions and agreed to stay and talk with others who came just to see her.

Joyce announced upcoming events:

The NH State Convention is June 18, 2016.

Annie Kuster event at Riveredge Marina – see her website.

Sunday, August 28 • Save the date: a countywide “meet the candidates” picnic in Orford. More information to come.

Tuesday, September 13 • NH Primary: Help us get out the vote!

Wednesday, September 28 • Candidate night at PAD

Senior Center, 5:30–8pm. Meet your NH House and Senate candidates! We will try to give all our candidates an opportunity to speak to our members in September and our October 18 meeting. Please note that this is not our usual meeting night – it is the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Benefit Ride for Veronica: This year, on August 6th, **Joan Turley** will be riding her bike in the Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) of behalf of our friend Veronica Barbadoro. The PMC is a 90-mile bike-a-thon that raises money for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Please read Joan's rider profile on the [PMC website](#) to learn

more about this amazing event, and then support her ride and share this event with others

Meeting adjourned 8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fahey

