

Plymouth Area Democrats General Meeting Minutes April 28, 2021

Mike Machanic, Chair, convened the zoom meeting 6pm. He recognized the esteemed members present in the room.

Kim Rawson brought attention to SB130, school voucher bill. It has not been added to the budget yet, and she requests those interested to send a private message or email her regarding taking action against this bill.

Ron, Co-chair, presented his treasurer's report. There is currently approximately \$1200 in our account. He called for donations using Act Blue. There were no questions or issues regarding the report.

Rita, Comms Chair, reported about her work securing speakers for meetings and newsletter content.

Gunnar, Tech Chair, reported that he is laying some groundwork and building on the website that Sarah Daniels-Campbell built for PAD. He remarked about the ease with which we will be able to publish content in the future.

Jennifer, Secretary, reported that the minutes from board meetings will be made available through email to anyone requesting them and may be in redacted format if necessary. They will not be placed on the website for public viewing. However, general meeting minutes are (and always have been) available on our website for public viewing.

Kim Rawson reported on our social media for PAD. She reminded us that to increase our reach on social media it helps if we 1) like 2) comment and 3) share any postings.

Mike opened the floor for announcements. Sarah Daniels-Campbell announced that she will not be running again for Grafton county chair. She also announced that the caucus will be May 19th at 6:30 p.m. via zoom, at which time they will vote on officers and by-laws. For any questions, please reach out to her by email.

Representative Sally Fellows request that people send postcards to senators' homes rather than emails because senators typically do not read the emails. Sally also inquired as to what progressive groups we are focusing on for future meetings. Rita said that we would like to amplify any groups doing this work.

Mike turned our attention to the bylaws portion of this meeting. He stated that the bylaws are posted on our website in addition to the 2 amendments proposed. Mike moved to adopt the bylaws, as proposed, and there was a second. The floor was opened for discussion. Ron Goggans noted that the bylaws were presented and passed unanimously by the board. There was a call for questions and discussion. Rep Joyce Weston shared that she is in favor of the March proposed by laws. Mike called all in favor of bylaws as proposed at the March meeting. There was a count of the ayes and none opposed. Motion passed.

Mike then called for a vote for the proposed amendments by the executive board. There was a second and discussion and questions were open to the floor. None were seen. There was a call for a vote. None were opposed and there was a count of the ayes. Motion carried.

Mike introduced Representative Sally Fellows' amendments. There was agreement from the floor to go point-by-point. Sally moved that the amendment to make a change in section 3 "the purpose". There was a second, then discussion. There was discussion about the value of the amendment, however that it was more of a mission statement. Bill Bolton moved to vote on Representative Fellows' purpose statement, but to add "at all levels". There was a second. Then a call for discussion. Representative Fellows wanted "grassroots". There was a move and a vote to table. Motion to table was passed. Next amendment was to add language around the independent and under age members.

Mike introduced our guest speaker, Beth Allen, Senior Organizing Manager for NH, VT, ME Moms Demand Action, the organization that created MADD, stronger gun laws, and nonpartisan calling for increased background checks. She explained there is not a lot of federal funding for research. They are a fact-based organization that analyses gun violence by gathering data. Nationally, suicide is the highest rate of gun violence. US rate of suicide is 10 times higher than other wealthy countries. 142 people die by guns in New Hampshire in an average year. 89% of gun deaths in New Hampshire are suicides. New Hampshire has some of the leanest gun laws in the country. We are a permit-less state, meaning anyone can carry a loaded hidden firearm. There is no safety required, no training required, no background check required and there has been an upward trend in gun violence (26% increase in suicide rate since 2010 and nearly double the national average). On the website everytown.org one can find information on statistics by state. The more rural the county, the more increased rate of suicide. Domestic violence accounted for 79% of the IPH firearm victims in 2015 to 2019 and were women. Stronger gun laws directly affect gun violence statistics in a positive way. In NH, gun violence costs \$933.9 million (\$17.6 million of it by taxpayers). Sununu vetoed the gun law in 2020. Ms. Allen highlighted 3 NH bills to keep an eye on: HD307 (Guns on

Campus bill) is a priority at the moment. HP197, the stand your ground expansion bill. SB154 Executive notification bill, ignores any executive orders passed by Biden. For additional info about Mom's Demand Action, visit website at: momsdemandaction.org.

Meeting adjourned