

Plymouth Area Democrats
August 24th, 2022

Attendees

Bill Nesheim, Chair

Vacant, Vice Chair

Jane Helfrich, Secretary

Ron Goggans, Treasurer

Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer (via Zoom)

Attendees

Heather Baldwin

Bill Bolton

Mike Cryans

Sallie Fellows

George Hacker

Tom Helfrich

Karen Liot Hill

Zoe Hill

Debra Anne Hunnewell

Anne Hunnewell

Dick Hunnewell

Ellen Levinson

Richard Lobban

Peter Lovett

Bill Marsh

Gary McCool

Spencer Meyer

Emma Mintz (via Zoom)

Melanie Nesheim

Dick Osborne

Stephanie Osborne

Phil Preston

Deb Reynolds
John Richards
Martha Richards
Jerry Stringham
Craig Tomlinson
Cinde Warmington
Sam Weiss
Joyce Weston
Sally Widerstrom
Jackie Wolff
Ken Wolff

AGENDA

Recognition of Retiring Representatives
Land Acknowledgement Adoption
Executive Council Candidate Forum District 2
Organize NH Voter Protection Presentation
Volunteer Opportunities
Meet the Candidates

New Hampshire State House Representatives Recognition.

Two NH State House Representatives were recognized for their service, Representative Suzanne Smith, and Representative Joyce Watson. Ms. Smith has represented Grafton 8 from 2008 to present and serves on the Resources, and Recreation & Development Committees. Rep. Joyce Weston has represented Grafton 8 from 2018 to present and serves on the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committees. Both representatives will leave office after their current terms expire.

Land Acknowledgement Adoption. (*A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.*) A bill to adopt a Land Acknowledgement failed in to pass in the NH legislature. The PAD Executive Committee supports the statement and asked the attendees to vote on adopting the Land Acknowledgement statement and post it on the PAD website. The statement is:

“New Hampshire is located on N'dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Pennacook, Abenaki, and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. Plymouth Area Democrats acknowledge and honor with gratitude the spiritual and physical connection to the aki (land), nebi (water), awan (air), lolakwikak (flora), and awwaasak (fauna) of the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations and who continue to carry forward the traditions of their ancestors”.

The motion made by the EC carried. The attendees unanimously adopted the statement which will be posted on the PAD website.

Executive Council Candidate Forum. Bill Nesheim introduced 2 candidates running for Executive Council District 2, Michael Cryans, and incumbent EC member Cinde Warmington. Each candidate spoke for approximately 10 minutes each, citing their skills and experience. Ms. Warmington emphasized her expertise in the health care field and her proactive stance with constituents. Mr. Cryans emphasized his previous experience as a council member, expertise in banking, contracts, and dealing with the opioid crisis.

Organize NH Voter Protection Presentation. Bill Nesheim introduced Emma Mintz, from the NHDP. Ms. Mintz is the NHDP Voter Protection Director, responsible for monitoring and fighting voter suppression efforts and ensuring every eligible voter has

their vote counted. NHDP aims to educate and support voters and help make the upcoming elections as accessible as possible. The NHDP Voter Protection Hotline is also available. NH voters with questions or concerns about voter registration, voter suppression, voting absentee, polling locations, or anything else regarding voting this year can call **603-GO-N-VOTE** (603-466-8683) to have their questions answered.

Volunteer Opportunities. Bill Nesheim announced upcoming volunteer opportunities. PAD will have an information booth at the Plymouth Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday September 10th, from 9am-3pm. This event is located at the Plymouth Municipal Airport and PAD still needs volunteers. See Jane Helfrich, PAD secretary for more information or to sign up to volunteer. Canvassing for /with candidates also needs volunteers. Bill remarked that canvassing is much more than “talking”. Help is also needed with data entry and driving. Sam Weiss from Organize NH said that they will also start canvassing soon.

Money Helps. Bill Nesheim also mentioned that donations are needed. PAD member financial support can help pay for the space for our meetings, the campaign office expenses, materials and direct support for candidates. Bill asked members to contribute whatever they can. PAD can also be supported via Act Blue donations, or to make your contribution go about 4% further and send a check to Plymouth Area Democrats (PAD mailing address is PO Box 34 Plymouth NH 03264). Bill added that there are “beg” letters on each table.

Candidate Campaign Updates. Democratic candidate profiles are now on the PAD website. Bill asked that any candidates limit their remarks to 5 minutes and include an introduction, what competition they face, and what is their strategy for winning.

Craig Tomlinson, a first-time candidate running for NH State House Representative from Grafton 6 introduced himself and stated he is a cancer researcher at Dartmouth. He is getting assistance on strategy from Sam Weiss. Mr. Tomlinson said he has learned that there is an extensive network of help from hardworking and dedicated people, and now he believes it's a winnable race.

Karen Liothill, candidate for Grafton County Treasure spoke next about the importance of spending public money wisely to help families and businesses. Ms. Liothill also said that the Republican attacks on Democrats for “reckless spending” are a distraction and that they (Republicans) have done nothing to help families.

Grafton County Democrats. Deb Reynolds made brief remarks about Grafton County Democrats. GCDs are raising money to help the candidates. She encouraged PAD members to check out the GCD website and urged PAD members to vote on September 13th. Deb said she was proud of all the candidates, and that “this” (mid-term elections) is an important moment, Democracy is at risk.

Announcement/Closing. Martha Richards asked about the PSU Democrats and a point of contact at PSU. Bill Nesheim responded that there is a new organizer at PSU, and they are just getting started. NHDP staff will also be deployed to PSU to liaison with students. (A few inaudible comments from the audience followed but were unable to be recorded and transcribed).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary