

Plymouth Area Democrats
September 28th, 2022

Attendees

Bill Nesheim, Chair

Vacant, Vice Chair

Jane Helfrich, Secretary

Ron Goggans, Treasurer

Kim Rawson, Communications Chair

Gunnar Baldwin, Technology Officer (via Zoom)

Attendees

Heather Baldwin

Elizabeth Silvia-Chandley (via Zoom)

Sallie Fellows

Karen Liot Hill

Katie Hedburg

Anne Hunnewell

Dick Hunnewell

Tommy Hoyt

Mary Kiernan

Gary McCool

Melanie Nesheim

Dick Osborne

Stephanie Osborne

Denise Pouliot

Paul Pouliot

John Reavie

Deb Reynolds

Val Scarborough

Naomi Cohen-Shields

Sheryl Shirley

Suzanne Smith

Fran Taylor
Tink Taylor
Thandia Thomas
Sam Weiss
Joyce Weston
Sally Widerstrom
Jackie Wolff
Ken Wolff

AGENDA

Kuster Campaign Update
Land Acknowledgement
NH Senate Candidate District 2-Kate Miller
PAD Office
Volunteer Opportunities
Candidate Campaign Updates

Kuster Campaign Update. Elizabeth Silvia-Chandley from the Annie Kuster campaign informed the group that Kuster campaign yard signs are available, please contact her to obtain them. She also said that the campaign is kicking off the “*30 Diners in 30 Days*” campaign event in Plymouth. Contact Elizabeth to obtain an invite.

Land Acknowledgement. Bill Nesheim briefly reviewed PAD’s adoption of the Land Acknowledgement statement at last month’s meeting and then introduced Denise and Paul Pouliot, members of the Abenaki tribe. After greeting the group in the Abenaki language, they gave a thoughtful explanation of the Land Acknowledgement statement. They described their activism to protect and preserve their ancestral homeland and emphasized

our inter-connectedness and our collective responsibility to safeguard the planet for the benefit of all future generations.

NH Senate Candidate District 2-Kate Miller. Bill Nesheim introduced Kate Miller, candidate for NH Senate District 2. Kate spoke about her legislative experience in the NH State House. She identified issues important to her campaign, such as health care, reproductive rights, environmental protection, gun safety, and funding for public education. Ms. Miller's campaign is self-funded, but she welcomes PAD members posting her campaign signs locally distributing her campaign literature and checking out her Facebook page.

PAD Campaign Office. Bill Nesheim announced that opening of the PAD campaign office at 300 Main Street, Plymouth, and thanked Stephanie Osborne, Val Scarboro, Deb Reynolds, Joyce Weston, and Martha Richards for their work in organizing and setting up the office. Bill also acknowledged the generosity of Alex Ray in making the office space available. The office will be used by Organize NH for launching canvassing efforts and conduction training for campaign volunteers and distributing campaign literature.

Volunteer Opportunities. Bill Nesheim introduced Naomi Cohen-Shields from Organize NH who will be recruiting and organizing volunteers for the region's canvassing operations from the PAD office. Naomi shared her belief in how important it is to be involved in protecting the freedoms we share in our country. Naomi will provide training and "messaging" for all volunteers who sign-up for canvassing shifts and may also provide some "phone bank" training pending available resources. Naomi will also be involved in coordinating Organize NH canvassing efforts with PSU students and their advisor.

Bill encouraged all attendees to put Naomi's phone number in their phones and sign up to support the canvassing efforts.

Candidate Campaign Updates. Bill asked the candidates present to talk about how their campaigns are progressing and what PAD members can do to help their campaigns'. Tommy Hoyt, candidate for NH State House Representative for Grafton 7 shared his political perspective that good ideas from all political parties should be used and shared. He calls this "thesis-anthesis-synthesis. Mr. Hoyt announced he had received endorsements from "the teachers union" (National Education Association) and said he could use some help with funding.

Sallie Fellows, candidate for NH State House Representative for Grafton 8 said she supports PAD getting out to help Tommy Hoyt because his Republican opponent and current incumbent, has extreme views and we need more Democrats in the State House.

Peter Lovett, another candidate for NH State House Representative for Grafton 8 said he's enjoying the campaign and feels very supported. He has hired a McCallister College graduate to help him with his social media platform.

Heather Baldwin, candidate for NH State House Representative for Grafton 4 relayed that her campaign was going well and acknowledged she had received assistance from other Democrats and the DVCC. She said that while she's been out canvassing, she's noticed her campaign sign, a bright red apple has been well received in her region.

Bill Bolton, another candidate for NH State House Representative for Grafton 8, said that he also received an endorsement from the NEA.* Bill Nesheim thanked all the candidates. Sam Weiss then announced that he had just received word that Organize NH can start canvassing from the Plymouth Campaign Office.

Grafton County Democrats. Deb Reynolds spoke on behalf of the Grafton County Democrats and thanked Denise and Paul Pouliot for their presentation. Deb enthusiastically reminded the group of the important issues "on the ballot", and the campaign signs that message those important issues need to be displayed.

Deb also described the recent NHDP annual dinner Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial dinner as a great success.

Announcement/Closing. Fran Taylor announced that a longtime PAD member Ray Jones had recently moved. Sallie Fellows said we should be thinking ahead and focusing on how to get more people involved in PAD. Gary Mc Cool spoke about efforts in Rumney*. Bill Nesheim said we still need a Fundraising Committee. Jane Helfrich announced that minutes were posted for review in the SLACK general channel. Kim Rawson said the board is working hard to get the word out and promote candidates via social media.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Jane Helfrich
PAD Secretary

* Speaker comments not completely audible