

Plymouth Area Democrats General Meeting Minutes March 24, 2021

Mike Machanic, acting Interim Chair, convened the zoom meeting 6:30pm.

He introduced a few individuals for a legislative update. Cinde Warmington, Executive Councilor from district 2, an attorney serving on the Executive Council, was first to speak. She is the only Democrat currently on the Executive Council. She noted that there were individuals, including Gordon McDonald and Makenzie Snow, confirmed by a 4 to 1 vote. Although she is the “1 vote”, she states it’s important to have a Democrat voice on the council and to have her eyes and ears on the business of the council so that she can inform people. She also noted a contract that advocates for substance abuse treatment. And Planned Parenthood contract in June. They are expecting a battle for repro-rights and family planning during this time. She launched a caucus for the Executive Council, which will include education of voters on why the Executive Council matters and the importance of having Democrat voices on the council. She noted that more Democrats vote in the Senate race than the Executive Council. This has to change. She is creating support for candidates running which would include press, social media, videos and providing tech support and a campaign manager for individuals wanting to run for office, and provide legal and political interns. She calls on us to amplify issues. They are coordinating messaging with the Senate and House, as well.

Senator Sue Prentiss, from district 5, spoke next. Her background is as a paramedic and then as a city councilor. She states that the Senate is currently fully remote. They have resorted to condensing bills, and established omnibus packages for efficiency. Covid-19 vaccine roll out program has been very successful and very responsive. SB75 (working with Health and Human Services) is assisting with this by providing 3 different dropdown boxes as an upgrade on the educational piece on the website. A small business relief fund was established to bring federal funds in a Grant program. This passed senate. Also SB128 is a restaurant relief bill passed, in which a portion of the taxes are held back for one year to help with the build-back of small restaurants. She spoke about SB158 the school funding commission (\$500k). The bill was killed. And SB130 is the school voucher bill to fairly and equitably fund education, and it was tabled. It will go to finance and worked into the budget. SB135 passed, which restores attendance rates so as not to create a gap to be filled locally.

Josh Adjutant announced the Right to Work bill is being presented tomorrow and to please sign up to oppose this bill. He states this is a greater challenge

this time around and Sally Fellows says the cut off is noon the day-of to register as “opposed” on this, or any bill.

The Reynolds/Richards award was presented to Bill Bolton. Deb and Martha spoke a few words about Bill's work and his worthiness of the award. Bill spoke his appreciation for the award.

Sarah Daniels-Campbell Grafton, county chair, led the ratification of Mike Machanic and Ron Goggans as chair and vice chair respectively. Both motions were passed

Mike spoke about our accomplishments as Plymouth Area Dems and presented a retrospective which included a PowerPoint presentation. Then thanked Sarah Daniels-Campbell and Estee Cuddihy for their service to the PAD board.

Val Scarborough and Stephanie were introduced as our nomination committee. They presented nominees for Publicity, Rita Sebastian, and Tech, Gunnar Baldwin. There were no nominees for Treasurer. No more nominees were put forth for any of the 3 open positions. Gunnar and Rita were invited to speak in favour of their nominations, which they did. Nominees were voted and elected unanimously.

Mike Machanic and Ron Goggans led the bylaws rewrite explanation and the “move” to vote to adopt. They explained that these bylaws were presented to the Advisory Committee and to the NHDP, and were for the purposes of correcting some inconsistencies internally with the NHDP. Sally Fellows expressed a proposal that this discussion be tabled and suspend until the next meeting as there were questions and no time to discuss. And she had put forth proposed changes. There was a call for a vote and there was a second and the motion carried, to table this discussion and vote until the April meeting. Mike said that suggestions for by-law changes should be in by April 2nd. Mike would like to see a Rules Committee formed for further investigation.

Meeting adjourned.