Plymouth Area Democrats Minutes

September 9, 2026

6:12 Welcome

I. Welcome Back after our Summer Hiatus. It is great to see you all! I hope you were able to meet some of the candidates who are our guests here tonight. They will speak after we finish this brief business portion. A brief recap of yesterday's primary. No local races were contested. Chris Pappas won the Senate Race and Maggie Goodlander won Congressional District 2. CD 1 was much closer and Stefany Shaheen eked out a win.

II. Recognize
    A. Elected officials
        1. Bill Bolton, Kate W-H, Deb Reynolds, Janet Lucas, Joyce Weston, Sally Fellowses, Jerry Stringham
    B. Town committee members (31)
        1. Many
    C. Recognize candidates
        1. Cathy Fountain, Brie Choate, Roger LaRochelle
    D. Recognize new members
        1. Connor- field organizer for NHDP, Willow- Dem. Victory Campaign, Vinn
    E. Mr. Viking Hedberg- today is Katie and Viking's 37th wedding anniversary and he was helping with campaign materials and home repairs

III. Minutes (motion; discussion; all in favor; opposed)
    A. Minutes of April and May meeting
        1. Bill Nesheim motion, seconded, all approved

IV. Treasurer's Report
    A. Balance
        1. $5,649.43
        2. Down about $3000 for the year due to the lease.
        3. We are asking for more donations for expenses.
    B. Donation envelopes are on tables. Please consider a recurrent donation on Act Blue—thank you to all the new and on going recurrent donors!
    C. We donated to our local candidates and will see if we can do a second round of donations and we have rent to pay at 42 Main St. We are just getting furniture and setting up this week. We hope to get some canvassing done this weekend but we are waiting on a plan for getting walking packets. We should know more on Thursday evening so keep your eyes peeled for an email on Friday or Saturday.
    D. Treasurer's Report Approval- Motion by Joyce, seconded, and approved

V. Announcements
    A. We signed a lease and were able to get into our **new headquarters** today. We are just getting furniture and setting up this week. We hope to get

some canvassing done this weekend but we are waiting on a plan for getting walking packets. We should know more on Thursday evening so keep your eyes peeled for an email on Friday or Saturday. Please see Katie, Val, or Joyce if you have furniture to donate.

1. Looking for volunteers to unload Katie's pick-up truck on Friday.

B. Volunteer opportunities abound and we will have more specifics in the coming days. A volunteer sign up sheet is going around. Some options are:

C. We are getting campaign literature tonight and hope to get it from all the candidates over the next few days.

1. See Connor (of NHDP- young gentleman) for canvassing

D. Door knocking or a driver for someone who will knock doors

E. Calling volunteers—to sign people up for shifts or remind them they are signed up

VI. Our Technology and Communications Officer has stepped down. We have a volunteer for that position but that will leave the Vice-Chair position open. Please see me or another Board member if you want more information or want to volunteer.

VII. Some housekeeping items—literally—please do not put cups or bottles in the trash with liquid still in them. They spill on the floor and the car of our volunteer who takes things to the transfer station. There is a small sink by the coffee maker to discard the liquids. And, please stay a couple minutes after the meeting to help clean up. Many hands make light work. Also, if you are able to come a little early to the meetings to help set up, please see Laura Parr. Laura, please stand up so everyone knows who you are.

VIII. The summer was busy with PAD having a presence at both the Bristol and Ashland July 4 parades, the Haverhill Fair, Rumney Old Home Day, and Bristol Old Home Day

6:15 Speakers

IX. Format:

A. Tonight we have the pleasure to hear from some of our regional and local candidates. At our next meeting on October 14, we will have most of the remaining candidates.

1. Each person 4 minutes to tell us a little about themselves and a brief statement on what they see as the main issues in their race and how they will address them.
2. There will be 5 minutes for Q & A after each office. I hope we end early enough to allow for time if you want to speak one on one with any of the candidates here tonight.

Executive Counselor

I. Karen Liot Hill
   A. Karen is our Executive Counselor from District 2 and is well known to us. She seems to be everywhere representing us. As the only Democrat on the Executive Council she has been working tirelessly for the people in NH.
   B. Karen recognized all of our representatives, pointed to and named them.
   C. Karen was able to make it to 28 polling places yesterday on Primary Day. She described the Unity breakfast that took place today and the remarks that she was asked to make.
      1. She describes her childhood (mother passed when she was 6; her father was left with three kids under 7), and went on to describe the various social programs that Democrats put forth to support working class people.
      2. Republicans are "rewriting history". They have been in charge for the majority of the time, and they are the ones to blame.
   D. "Good government is what we owe to the people". We have to persuade the 48% of undeclared voters in the state.
   E. Asks for our votes for herself and other Democrats.

II. Luz Bay
   A. Luz is the candidate for Executive Council District 1. She hopes to unseat the incumbent, Joe Kenney who has represented District 1 for 5 terms. Luz is currently a NH House Rep from Dover—Strafford County District 21.
   B. Luz was unable to attend.

III. Questions
   A. Who is Karen's opponent
      1. Tobin Menard, a TP payroll employee
   B. Comment- Karen is the highest ranking Democrat in NH

State Senators

IV. Sue Prentiss
   A. Sue is in her 3rd term as our Senator from District 5. As a paramedic, she has championed many health care issues.
   B. Thanks all of PAD for their hard work, knocking on doors, supporting her
   C. On committees for Education, Transportation, and a third committee
   D. Sue believes she is a problem-solver, a mayor, and has been involved in local politics for years.
   E. She speaks on how the state has downshifted funds back onto the local taxpayers, such as $400,000 from the state retirement accounts back to the people without a clear reason.
   F. She champions maternal care, pre and postpartum care as the US has declining maternal mortality rates.

V. Cathy Fountain
   A. Cathy is the candidate for NH Senate District 1. She is a Navy veteran with extensive business experience.
   B. District 1- Rumney, Piermont, Warren, Woodstock, Benton, Haverhill, Franconia, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, etc.
   C. Supports Veterans Affairs- Vets Reststop in Woodstock
   D. She has a family connection with Moore Dam as her father helped build it.
   E. She describes the benefits that her father received while working for New England Electric.

VI. Questions:

For Sue-
   A. Viking comments about Sue- that she thinks about something and considers her stance before answering
   B. Bill guaranteeing postpartum coverage question
      1. NH is a model for postpartum care
   C. In order to expand bus service, there would need to be a match. Would toll money be considered?
      1. Toll increase is part of the 10 year plan, primarily focused on infrastructure
         a) This bill also looks at places in the north outside of the metropolitan areas

For Cathy-
   A. Do you support union memberships?
      a. Short answer- yes. Businesses are paying federal minimum wage without benefits.

County Candidates

VII. Brie Choate
   A. Brie is a first time Candidate and is running for Register of Deeds. She is a small business owner and resident of Haverhill.
   B. Co-owns an automotive repair shop, pursuing a masters degree. She would be in charge of all of the deeds and transactions relating to property.

VIII. Katie Hedberg
   A. I am the current County Commissioner from District 3 and I hope you will re-elect me.
   B. Budget year was very tough. Everything went up: electricity, food, and the nursing home. The state has been cutting their daily rate through Medicaid (state and federal program). What the state pays is about 50% of what it costs for a person to stay in a nursing home.
   C. The prison system has more inmates, and they are older than ever. The state, thus county, has to pay for their care. Inmates lose any federal benefits once incarcerated.

IX. Questions:

For Brie

A. How did you get involved politically and talk about your trade?
    a. She was a diesel mechanic and welder and put herself through trade school.
    b. Protests brought her out. She got involved, then town chair in Haverhill, and now running for Registrar of Deeds
B. What difference will a Democrat make in the Registrar of Deeds
    a. Hannah Arandt- one can hold Democratic ideals in bureaucratic seat.
C. What difference will a Democrat make in as a County Commissioner
    a. Social issues- social programs like for keeping the elderly in their homes
    b. Opioid crisis funds- use those funds to support programs funding ventilators in ambulances and other things.
    c. Bringing values of taking care of others to governance.
D. Court house building vs renovating?
    a. It is not resolved yet
    b. They were asked to design a smaller building- currently would cost more money
    c. Hopefully we will be able to move forward with it soon.
    d. Building does have asbestos- it cannot be renovated room by room

X. Jerry Stringham

A. Jerry is in his 3rd term, running for the 4th term, as the Grafton District 3 State Rep. He is currently clerk of the House Finance Committee and was previously on the House Ways and Means committee.
B. Jerry described this legislative session as being “first on scene at a car crash”.
C. He describes carrying dice with him on the campaign trail.
D. He brings up how one year that 4 ambulance services went out of business within 3 months. Describes how he worked to get ambulance services supported and funded through Medicare.
E. Jerry describes his work on the Finance committee and clear examples of how his work has direct impact on constituents
    1. Example- ambulances could not bill for onsite medical attention when the patient no longer needed a ride to the hospital. Thanks to his work, that can happen now.

XI. Janet Lucas

A. Janet is in her first term as Grafton District 7 State House Rep. She is a retired OB/GYN who brings that perspective to all she does. She also writes an amazing WEEKLY newsletter.
B. Appointed to Health and Human Services and Elderly Care Committee
    1. This term, the committee has dealt with a lot of anti-science stances despite being known for bi-partisanship
C. She is the legislative appointee for the Elderly Advisee Counsel
D. Campton results had nearly 2x the ballots of the Republicans, but do not take that for granted.

E. NH rates last in the country for public education. The Freedom Accounts almost entirely go to students who already attend private school.

F. NH now rates dead last for capital funding for the arts including districts and territories.

G. Janet advocates for common sense healthcare, protecting natural resources, and housing.

XII. Marko Kloos

A. Marko is a first time Candidate for Grafton District 18 which is the large district that is comprised of the 10 towns of Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Groton, Hebron, and Orange. As an aside before I let Marko speak, this is a floterial district. Each NH State Rep represents about 3,000 people—in an area where there are many small towns, another Rep is elected by the people of those towns to make the math work. Marko is a well known author and lives in Enfield.

B. Marko was ill but sent remarks to Kate W-H. Secretary Jess Quinn read the remarks.

XIII. Questions:

For both

A. Housing issues? How do you propose helping the housing crisis
   a. Jerry- Got rid of interest and dividends tax, vouchers took money out of the budget. There was a bill for supporting new homes, but that was taken out due to the above. Not everything will be done with ADU.
   b. Janet- We have to make sure that our citizens have shelter and quality foods before even tackling healthcare.

B. Will zoning laws change to help?

C. Ayotte says that there will be 400 new affordable housing units. What is affordable?
   a. Affordable for whom? Minimum wage only gets $58 a day. The average studio/single bedroom costs $57 a day. Affordable for whom, really?

Sally Fellowes- there will be a PAD booth at the Plymouth Townwide Yardsale this Saturday. Please stop by.

Karen mentions that the Executive Counsel votes on projects, including Smith Bridge Rd. She also brings up that the governor appoints Supreme Court justices and Attorney General.

XIV. 7:34 adjourn.

XV. Our next meeting is Wednesday October 14 and we will continue with our Candidate Meet and Greet. We hope to have a Grand Opening for the Headquarters in the near future but we needed to wait until after the Primary so we knew who our Candidates will be.

XVI. Please remember to put the elastic inside your name tag.