

**Plymouth Area Democrats
Plymouth Senior Center
May 23, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by President Jay Knower at 6:31 PM, after potluck dinner, drinks and music from 5:30 to 6:30.

Jay recognized the past and present members of legislature and other governmental positions who were present.

Martha spoke regarding the County Commissioner seat in District 3. It includes 17 towns. She is putting a call out for candidates. This position assists groups of very vulnerable citizens, including the nursing home.

Slate Goodwin, NHDP organizer, introduced himself. He is currently the regional director for the areas from Concord to Canada. He put out a call for short term and long-term housing for campaign workers. They're also looking for summer fellows and field organizers.

Will Pisano, NHDP Deputy Political Director, introduced himself. He said this year will focus on a coordinated campaign, which gets to focus on down balloting and re-electing Congressman Kuster this year. Commented that we Plymouth Area Democrats are the best group that he gets to work with.

There was an announcement about the upcoming visibility event taking place on July 12th. 7:30 a.m. All are invited.

Our next Plymouth Area Democrats general meeting is June 27th and will be a panel on the opioid crisis.

Announcement was made that Jason Kander is coming for a special event on July 27th. Note that this is not our regular meeting date.

Jay then opened up to the floor for announcements.

Robin Huber spoke about to the Plymouth area Community closet, a 501c3 financial assistance program which helps the local community with fuel assistance, a food pantry and a thrift store. Requested that anyone with time to help assist in the thrift store.

Tejasinha Sivalingam spoke on the trend of leveraging of power to silence groups of people. He believes when someone is silenced, the person silencing is committing a violent act. In August of 2017, he states that several on Ashland Board of Selectmen joked about tazing him on Public Access TV. Urges us to consider the impact on the Democratic Republic that these types of incidents have.

Bill Bolton got up and spoke about having a kickoff for his campaign on Friday. He will be attending the SEC meeting tomorrow in Concord. Please donate to his campaign on ActBlue.

Paul Phillips urges us all to contact Governor Sununu regarding the gender identity bill, H81319, which now sits on his desk unsigned after passing both the Senate and the House.

Sarah Daniels Campbell reminds us of the Jason Kander event on July 27th. Put out a call to help with planning for the event.

Fran spoke about checking out Marketplace on NPR for all who are interested in the "hometown voice" experience.

Sharon Seabrooke spoke about the Baker River cleanup. She and Lisa Donor are co-chairing this year. Event is August 11th. She will bring flyers to the next meeting. Requests assistance, canoes and volunteers. Will send out an email to be distributed to all on the listserv.

Suzanne Smith reports the final day of the session was today. Despite majority Republican rule and a Republican governor in Concord, we did manage to get out gender identity legislation passed, education voucher system was defeated, and Medicare was expanded. She thanked us for all our support.

Mike Machanic then took over the meeting to facilitate the gun control panel. Panel members included:
Andy McDonald (Columbine HS shooting survivor, and teacher at Plymouth Elementary School) who shared about his experience on that fateful day and commented that there is not is a one-size-fits-all solution.

Abi Sutcliffe (PRHS senior, and co organizer of student walkout) talked about her experience of changing the way she talks to people about the issue.

Suzanne Smith, NH representative currently serving Grafton district #8, shared about how difficult it is to get anything done around sensible gun legislation in Concord due to the reactionary responses received by those who do not support further gun laws. Conversation seems to always turn to "you're trying to take my guns away". She did share about the Gun Shop Project where gun shop owners are trained to look for warning signs of suicidal customers.

Kat Legier spoke about her position on the Legislative Youth Advisory Council in Concord. She did attend the March for Our Lives and participated in the PRHS walk out.

A share from the audience of interest was an invitation to view GUN DOWN, on the NRA, and Open Secrets, an organization that reports governmental entities who receive contributions from the NRA.

Meeting was adjourned 8pm.

