

Democrats of Amherst Executive Board Meeting January 31, 2017

Attendees: Anna Goulet Zimmerman, Dan Veilleux, Julie Smiley, Faye O'Neill, Addie Hutchison, Penny Eggleston, Peggy Harris, Lucy Spencer, Pat Eggleston, Megan Murray

7:05: Meeting called to order by Anna
Introductions

Caucus: Anna discussed the caucus notes from 1/17. The initial notes only covered the election of new board members and state convention delegates, after which Julie Radhakrishnan and Mary Arrowsmith left the caucus. Anna amended the notes to include the post-election discussion of recommended changes to the Amherst Democrats By-Laws. Changes will need to be approved at a future caucus, date to be determined.

Meetings: The group discussed preferred future times and dates for board meetings. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm. Locations will be members' homes, rotating through the group. Next meeting will be March 13th, followed by April 10th.

Milford Dems: Anna shared Graham Smith's information about upcoming Milford Democrat potluck dinners. On February 22nd NH Rep. Katherine Rogers will discuss HB201, requiring background checks for all commercial firearms sales. Speakers at future dinners may include Steve Marchand, candidate for Governor in 2018 and Dante Scala, UNH professor. Dinners are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 20 Elm St in Milford. We discussed reaching out to Milford to offer babysitting services during potlucks so children could attend. This was put on hold as there was concern about taking on too much in addition to the Amherst planned events. May be revisited if we co-host events with Milford in the future.

Dinners: We discussed possible sites for future Amherst Democrats potluck dinners. Attendance might increase if we hold dinners in Amherst rather than at the previously used UU Church in Milford. Faye will call Amherst churches that have meeting space, Parkhurst Place and The Black Forest and/or other restaurants. Anna will call Souhegan High School.

Web Site: Martin Goulet has updated both the Web Site and Facebook page for The Amherst Democrats. The changes will make it easier to share our information with other sites. Once people check into the new Facebook page (Like, Follow) their names will be removed from the old page member list. Julie suggested links on our pages to advocacy groups working in NH. Julie, Dan and Megan will join Martin on a committee to gather content, along with possibly Brianna Green.

Future Amherst Democrats Topics / Speakers:

Several options were discussed for possible topics, most likely combined with potluck dinners.

- “How Can You Help” or “Serving Your Community”

We would like to take advantage of the need many people are feeling to do something helpful in response to the Trump administration’s likely cutbacks in services. We’ll invite representatives from a few local non-profits to discuss their needs and how the public can help. We might combine that with Amherst town representatives discussing ways to volunteer to serve Amherst. There are many boards and committees that need members. Faye will check with SHARE and Meals on Wheels. Penny will check with Bridges. Peggy will check with Jim O’Mara &/or Nancy Demers. March 9th is a possible date.

- Journalist Panel

We would invite speakers from several local news outlets to discuss covering politics in the current climate.

- “How Does a Bill Become Law”

We might combine this with learning more about how Amherst town government works or how NH government works.

- Climate Change

- Planned Parenthood

- Redistricting

Meeting adjourned at 8:49. Next meeting March 13th, 7pm at XXXXXXXX’s house.

Minutes submitted by

Faye O'Neill, Secretary