

**Democrats of Amherst**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**January 8, 2018**  
Beth Powers' House

**Attendees:** Anna Goulet Zimmerman, Beth Powers, Faye O'Neill, Clay Sammis, Penny Eggleston, Pat Eggleston, Len Gerzon  
**Guest:** Shannon Chandley

**Legislative Update:**

Shannon attended to give us an update on legislation in Concord. The NH House gathered on Wednesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> to begin the 2018 session. While the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a legislative biennium typically sees fewer bills introduced, that is not true this year. The first order of business was to revisit bills retained from 2017. SB193 "establishing education freedom savings accounts for students" passed the House. It has been sent to the Finance Committee for comment, then will return to the Senate, which may concur or not concur with changes made. There's still time to contact Senators &/or Governor with comments.

The bill to legalize marijuana, HB656, will be voted on 1/10. There is currently a committee studying the issue and we have other states we can observe to learn more for future reference if this bill does not pass.

There are 3 bills in front of the Science, Technology and Energy Committee - HB592, 559 & 317. All seek to roll back incentives for clean energy. Shannon expects the votes to be close, so, again, please contact the Committee, the Senate &/or the Governor.

Two Conversion Therapy bills (HB587 & SB224) and two gun bills (HB1542 & HB1749) are being heard, the gun bills this week. HB1213 is similar to the earlier child bride bill that was killed, but it is titled "removing the exception for married minors from the definition of sexual assault." The Family & Medical Leave Insurance bill (HB628) is likely to pass. Rep Mary Giles has championed this issue for years.

The voting rights bill has passed the Senate and will go to the House. Again, write to the Governor if you wish to comment on this bill.

Shannon has sponsored a bill on PFOAs and co-sponsored a bill requiring headlights on cars if wipers are on. Another bill she is in favor of would set up a commission regarding forming a multi-employer retirement plan for small businesses (HB1767).

Shannon reports that roll call votes are done if requested, and are usually requested on any bill that is at all controversial. There's a record we can access to check on our Reps' votes on roll call bills. Also, the current Republican committee chairs are favoring a process whereby bills receive only brief hearings (15-20 minutes) then an immediate committee vote. Obviously this leaves little to no time for discussing, considering oral testimony or reading written testimony. Speaker Gene Chandler has created a policy committee for the House, the purpose of which is unclear.

Shannon will keep us abreast of progress in Concord.

### **General Meeting:**

We unanimously agreed to accept Len Gerzon as our newest Board member. We also approved the minutes from our last (Nov) meeting.

The group agreed that we need to do whatever we can to recruit and support all Democratic candidates for NH offices, especially local House Reps. The NHDP has a Committee to Elect House Democrats that will help. Nick Taylor is the Chair. Shannon will introduce Clay to Nick.

We also agreed we need to recruit and help register more Amherst Democrats and Undeclared voters. Faye will contact Jeannie Ludt (Supervisor of the Checklist) for advice. We're considering a registration table on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Anna will contact The NH Young Democrats asking about any young candidates they might know of for Amherst Rep spots. Anna will also look up deadlines for candidate registration, voter registration and party changes.

Len suggested we decide on topics of interest to Amherst progressive and independent voters and write frequent letters to local editors on these topics. This, along with updates on happenings in Concord would expose local voters to the advantages of electing Democrats in November. We could have a rotating group of writers. (Perhaps some members can research topics and bring ideas to our Feb meeting? Shannon mentioned UNH surveys on topics.)

Len also suggested getting some SHS students involved in helping to get Democrats elected.

Beth wants to learn more about ALEC and Gary Daniels' relationship to them.

### **Next meeting Monday February 12**

Minutes submitted by  
Faye O'Neill, Secretary