

Common Sense

Next Meeting: July 1 at The Barn at 9am

AmherstRepublicans.org



Legislative Highlights

By Vanessa Sheehan, *State Representative*

It has been a challenge for House Republicans this year with such a slim majority. Every vote counts! As we go through the remainder of June, the budget and any remaining bills will be voted on and the House will hold its final session on June 29.

Highlights of a few bills signed into law this year:

HB170, requiring the teaching of cursive handwriting and multiplication tables. This law states that instruction shall be provided in cursive handwriting and multiplication by the end of fifth grade.

HB365, relative to statewide facility condition assessment for school buildings. This legislation encourages school districts to provide the DOE with long range capital improvement program reports, identifying current projected school facility goals and needs. This will provide a more thorough understanding of the needs that require legislative focus and support in the next 10 years.

Events, Highlights

July 1 – ATRC meeting & Float-building, 9am

July 3 – Fireworks @ Souhegan High School

July 4 – 4th of July Parade. Bring non-perishable donations for SHARE food pantry.

Aug 5 – Monthly meeting, 9am

Article 1 – Legislative Update from Vanessa Sheehan, *State Rep.*

Article 2 – Notes from the Chair, Terry Reiber

Article 3 – Thoughts on Protecting Our Children, Diane Layton, *Vice Chair*

Article 4 – Town Newsletters, Danielle Pray, *Board of Selectmen Member*

Article 5 – Fourth of July Update

SB77, relative to changes in school placement for students. This bill adds approved private schools as an option in the statute relating to assignment of a student to another school due to a manifest education hardship in their current school or if it is in the best interest of the student.

HB336, relative to the format of election ballots. This legislation clarifies ballot instructions informing voters how many candidates they can vote for, helping to reduce overvotes.

HB96, recognizing May 3rd as Old Man of the Mountain Day. The Old Man may be gone but will not be forgotten! •

Vanessa Sheehan will be the guest speaker at the July 1st meeting starting at 9am.

See how Amherst State Reps have voted, find more about legislation in Concord at

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>



A Message from the Chair

Thanks to Diane, volunteers, and authors for assembling the first edition of our monthly newsletter. Diane chose the befitting name "Common Sense" for this periodical.

You've probably noticed a number of small changes taking place. We have started advertising our meetings on Facebook. We are asking everyone to sign in at meetings so that we can keep our membership and mailing lists up to date. Each meeting attendee is provided a name tag. We now have decaf coffee at our meetings and a sound system to raise the volume!

We held a very successful candidates' forum in February to support town elections. NHGOP chair Chris Ager spoke at our May meeting, and Hillsborough County GOP Chair Chris Maidment spoke at our June meeting. These meetings were well attended with vigorous discussion!

We convened a Communications Committee that resulted in refreshing our website, more social media posts, and the publication of this newsletter.

Many of our members have been seen at presidential campaign events. We've asked questions and let our views be known to these candidates.

We're working with the Souhegan Valley Federated Republican Women to create a float for the July 4th parade. We plan to have a booth on the Green on July 4th so please stop by and help us meet and greet Amherst voters!

We are assembling a team to start planning for town, state, and federal elections. This is our highest priority, assisting candidates to win. Even a small amount of your time can make a big difference! Please call me at [781-264-2412](tel:781-264-2412) to join our team.

Thank You.

Terry Reiber
ATRC Chair

If you'd like to write an article for Common Sense, contact Editor-in-Chief Diane Layton at info@amherstrepublikans.org

Thoughts on Protecting our Children

By Diane Layton, *Vice Chair*

At the recent hearing at Souhegan HS re the book “Gender Queer,” they had two microphones for the audience to approach to speak, one for pros and one for cons. I declined to speak, but I would have chosen to stand between the two microphones, because we need to do better protecting all our children.

I greatly appreciated the courage of the young man who told us of his personal transgender journey. When my daughter was in high school ten years ago, her friend went through a very similar journey. Also, the mother who came all the way from Derry spoke well about her beautiful children, several of whom were LGBTQ.

What I took from these stories is that the families supported each other. The parents showed unconditional love for their children, and sheltered and protected them through one of the most difficult periods in anyone’s life. Let’s face it: high school sucks!

I think that’s what we all are doing, just trying to protect our children. It makes me inexpressibly sad to see how as a society we are not protecting our children. If you look at the statistics on teen depression and suicide, drug overdosing, child pornography, and child obesity, as well as surveillance of school children’s online activity by bad actors, it is obvious that we are doing a very poor job of protecting our children. The US has the highest rate of child sex trafficking in the world. Why is that?

What ever made anyone believe that it was a good idea to take away the innocence of our children? Their innocence is their armor. There will be plenty of time when they are mature young adults to learn the ways of the world.

Unfortunately, the school board stood by their decision to allow the book in the High School library, with no option for the parents who do not wish their children to have access to the graphic sexual content.

We need to do a better job of protecting our children. •



JUNE 2023

Town Newsletters



By Danielle Pray, *Board of Selectmen Member*

The June edition of the town newsletter is now available at this link:

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/.../pages/amherst-town-newsletters>

To have it sent to your inbox each month, you can simply sign up for E-Alerts and select "Board of Selectmen". There are many categories that may be of interest so check as many or as few as you would like. Your preferences may be changed at any time.

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/subscribe>

The Library and Recreation Department have their own newsletter sign-up links and those are available here: Library <http://www.libraryaware.com/2185/Subscribers/Subscribe...>

Rec Dept: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5rff64>

Don't miss out on the many programs and offerings available in Amherst this summer! •

Fourth of July Update

This year's 4th of July parade theme is "An Old Fashioned Fourth." The ATRC and the Souhegan Valley Republican Women will have a float in the parade with the theme, "Remembering the Past to Preserve the Future." The parade design is nearly finalized, but ideas are still welcome.

We will be constructing the float after the monthly meeting on July 1 at the barn. Please bring your own tools, such as staple guns, hammers, scissors, pliers, and duct tape.

The ATRC will also have a booth on the Village Green. The ATRC is looking for volunteers to staff the booth and help hand out candidate and election information to visitors. Any help is appreciated, even for just an hour.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for SHARE Food Pantry.

Contact Terry Reiber, Committee Chair, at [781-264-2412](tel:781-264-2412) to volunteer for the booth or the float. •



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