



## PlymouthFirst final 2018 meeting draws a crowd.

When Paul Cunningham, President of PlymouthFirst, opened the general meeting at 6: 00 pm, December 5, 2018 every spare chair was filled, and the informal count of attendees was 59.

Twelve of fifteen precincts were represented on the guest list. Attendees had arrived early to refreshments and slides presenting “Did You Know” (DYK) information about town financial facts.



President Paul illustrated the mission of PlymouthFirst with commentary on slides sharing facts about: the demographics of different types of town government, the status on closing of Entergy, costs per student and taxes in surrounding towns, and in anticipation of the presentation on municipal taxes, he gave a summary of the money articles approved at the Fall Annual Town Meeting.

He turned the mike over to State Representative Mathew Muratore and thanked him for expanding the resources available to Plymouth from the State, and for coming to a General Meeting of PlymouthFirst to share his thoughts about best practices in working with government.



Representative Mathew Muratore thanked Plymouth First for inviting him. He hoped that his thoughts would be constructive and helpful to the conversation involving ways to improve government and citizen participation. Representative Muratore stressed the importance of knowing the facts surrounding an issue and getting agreement that the facts

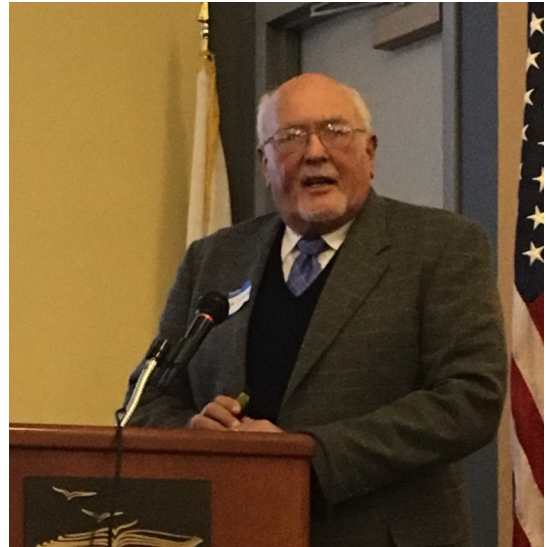
surrounding an issue and getting agreement that the facts were accurate. He encouraged everyone to follow his maxim: ACT - Action, communication, teamwork.

Questions and Answers followed.

After taking a short break for refreshments, President Paul introduced Peter Svahn, a Town Meeting (Pct. 15) and PlymouthFirst member with 40 years professional experience working with municipal and non-profit financing.

Peter introduced his topic with an overview of the slides that were to come. He promised to keep his talk: “a primer on the current tax rate and how taxes calculated” exciting and stimulating. A four-page outline was available. (Now available at the PlymouthFirst web site: called and a promise to keep the subject of determining how taxes are calculated as interesting as possible.

<https://plymouthfirst.org/>)



Questions and Answer period followed with several people coming to the mike to express their views on subjects ranging the benefits of town meeting government, the definition of “free cash” in an operating budget, the definition of benefits in the budget and within the salaries line item.

Clearly future meetings of PlymouthFirst would find a room filled with people interested in learning more about the pluses and minuses of Town Meeting vs other types of municipal government, a closer look at budget line items such as “free cash,” should there be a split tax rate in Plymouth?, and the proposal for the town to take over the management of the waste water treatment plant and operations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

