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Climate change lecture heats up, warranting police presence

By Jessica Valeriani jvaleriani@eagletribune.com Mar 7, 2019



ANDOVER — An informational talk held at Memorial Hall Library, regarding the scientific evidence for climate change and its impacts, quickly erupted into a series of name-calling and yelling before police were called to help disperse people from the event.

"I kind of felt like I was on a reality TV show," said Alison Page, 34, a lecture attendee. "I wasn't expecting that from an event at the library."

What was aimed to be a meaningful presentation and discussion based on Boston University Professor Anthony Janetos' research dating back decades, as well as information drawn from the most recent U.S. National Climate Change Assessment that he co-wrote, eroded as rapidly as the Earth's surface, some climate change believers might say.

"I can no longer say I've never had someone stand up in the middle of a meeting and call me a 'liar' and 'not a real scientist' because that happened (Wednesday) night," said Janetos, who led the talk.

A group of people in attendance with "pretty strong feelings about climate change" went from mildly disputing during the middle of the presentation to very disruptive at the end, leaving the whole group to suffer, Janetos said.

Page wrote in an Eagle-Tribune Letter to the Editor the debate quickly switched from "intellectual to emotional," forcing the moderator to end the lecture and call the police.

A few audience members, who Page wrote were climate change "denialists," asserted their beliefs that climate change hasn't been proven by science, and there has been no warming in the past 20 years, Page wrote.

"One member in the audience was so adamant that climate change science is a farce that he accused Janetos of being 'a liar,'" Page wrote. "This caused a woman in the back of the room to erupt in anger and start name calling."

Page said the woman called the man an "arrogant fool" and told him to "sit down" because she "will not listen to (him) for another second."

That audience member to call Janetos a 'liar' was Shiva Ayyadurai, who told the Eagle-Tribune he is a lifelong green activist and accomplished scientist.

"During the middle of the lecture when Janetos made a totally bold face lie that 'oceans are getting more acidic,' I believe I refuted that saying that he was lying, and that he either did not know basic chemistry, or was purposely misleading the audience, as oceans are basic," Ayyadurai told the Eagle-Tribune.

Ayyadurai said he called Janetos a 'liar' again, during the question and answer period, for a statement he made regarding the human activities that have led to significant change in temperature. He said that he disagreed with Janetos presenting himself as a scientist and with him lying.

Janetos referred to the incident as a "shame" and an "unfortunate turn of events" for the 115 people in attendance that were present that night to learn something. It was the first time an experience like this occurred at one of his talks, Janetos said.

Andover police said they received a couple of 911 calls around 8:30 p.m. for disorderly people at the library.

"The meeting had already shut down and we just helped clear everyone out," said Lt. Chris Moore. "Just a lot of people and they were a little heated in their beliefs, which is fine."

In a previous interview with the Andover Townsman, Janetos said one of the challenges he faces in discussing climate change is how politicized it has become.

"There's no reason for it to be a partisan issue, but it has evolved that way. I look at this as I'm not out to change anyone's mind but I'm just out to tell you the truth," Janetos said.

Janetos said he aimed to inform people how climate change impacts the country, how different parts of the country are adapting to those impacts, and how different parts of the country are taking action regarding greenhouse gas emissions. Janetos also hoped to generate discussion that would engage attendees and encourage them to ask questions.

"They got a chance to say what they wanted to say, though I don't know they would agree with that," Janetos said of those asserting their opinions at the talk. "I think it's too bad that a small number of people thought they were basically going to try to disrupt this entire thing."

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FrankLicata5

7 days ago

Real-green-scientist Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai in Andover MA: <https://youtu.be/D8bMX0Or6Mg> (1-minute edit from Memorial Hall Library)

Like Reply



FrankLicata5

Mar 15, 2019

It was good to see the REAL green scientist Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai the following week at the 2nd event speaking on the stage to expose the Paris Accord SCAM, which actually hurts the earth by allowing India and China to double pollution and only serves to make a select group of people wealthy trading carbon credits in 2030. No doubt these are the same people funding these one-sided propoganda-field charades at our libraries and doing everything possible to shut down real scientific debates of actual facts.

Like Reply



notmyemail

Mar 15, 2019

Climate Change is real, being a close minded denier and having a public temper tantrum just shows people you have no respect for the community as a whole. Shiva, instead of ruining someones presentation, try to arrange your own presentation and display your ideas like a mature adult. I doubt anyone would listen to your Alex Jones styled quasi-conspiracies, but at least you're not acting like an immature puppy who needs to be potty trained.

Like Reply

FrankLicata5

Mar 15, 2019