

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 12 Dec. 2002**

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Nineteen persons were in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of 21 Nov.2002 were accepted as revised.

Report by Kate Donaghue: The State Democratic Issues Convention is scheduled for Saturday 7 June. The purpose of the Convention is to adopt a political agenda (platform) and amend the Party Charter. It is part of a convention cycle. In even numbered years, there are Nominating Conventions as needed for the nomination of constitutional officers and US Senator. In the year before the nomination of constitutional officers, the Issues Convention adopts the platform which then remains in place for the next 4 years. The Dukakis-McGovern Committee has been formed to make recommendations regarding the next Nominating Convention. The Glodis-Barrios Committee has also been formed to consider the Democratic Party's message. State wide hearings will be held by the Dukakis-McGovern to gather the opinions of local Party Committees, but other kinds of meetings relative to the content of the platform of have not been scheduled, to the best of Donaghue's knowledge.

Caucuses can be scheduled from Saturday 8 Feb. to Sunday 16 Feb. An automatic waiver is needed if the caucus is held other than between 9 am and 4 pm on 8 Feb.

Discussion: The discussion was basically a continuation of topics raised at the previous meeting -- how can the SDTC become respected, prominent and influential in political matters? Political issues having local impact were raised, among which were pollution of Hop Brook, the economics of recycling, universal health insurance, and underfunding of education and security preparedness. The usefulness and need of a SDTC Charter was raised, but there was a question as to a mechanism for its adoption and its legality. This matter will be investigated. After lengthy discussion, a set of action goals and methods for the SDTC were agreed upon by consensus and recorded by Henry Noer. This set is considered to be a tentative mission statement.

Goals:

- Increase the profile and awareness of the SDTC within the town.
- Increase participation in the SDTC.
- Increase Democratic voter turnout in Sudbury and become successful in electing Democratic candidates.
- Increase the influence of the SDTC within the Massachusetts Democratic Party.
- Influence public opinion in national, state and local political issues.

Methods:

- Hold monthly meetings and sponsor occasional activities
- Hold issue forums open to the public.
- Issue press releases, letters to editors and op-ed pieces.
- Use local cable TV for announcements, forums, etc.
- Establish a computerized voter list and data base for better contact efficiency.
- Contact new residents.
- Connect parties and social events with community activities.
- Establish a web site.
- Issue occasional newsletters to the community of Democratic voters.
- Expand the use of email lists.
- Invite candidates and representatives for presentations, questions and discussion.

In connection with the above, two working groups were formed. Judy Deutsch and Mary Barrett agreed to look into the extent and means by which the SDTC can gain access to local public TV. Paul Pakos, Claire Schlosser and Thomas Hollocher agreed to contact the local paper about op-ed pieces.

**Announcements**

A pot-luck party hosted by Winn Fitzgerald, 200 Concord Road, is planned for 12 Jan. 2003, further details, if any, by group email.

Remember to pay your yearly dues of \$25 minimum c/o SDTC to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury.

The next meeting of the SDTC is scheduled for 7:30 pm Thurs. 23 January 2003 in the Unitarian Church. The agenda will include:

A review and approval of the above proposed mission statement.

Review of possible press releases, op-ed articles, etc. on current issues.

Planning of an issue forum, with cable TV coverage

Committee assignments.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary SDTC, 24 Dec. 2002