

Sudbury Town Democratic Committee (STDC)
Minutes of the meeting of 27 Feb. 2003

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 23 Jan. 2003 were approved without revision.

Kate Donaghue, State Committee Representative, was asked to describe how Sudbury Democrats can have input into the Action Agenda of at the platform convention in June and other Party initiatives: The Glodis-Barrios-Gay Committee (Election Outreach Committee), that is charged with considering the message of the Democratic Party, will have its first hearing on Wed. 5 Mar. at 7 pm at the Worcester Public Library. Our Jonathan Sclarsic has been appointed to that Committee. The McGovern-Dukakis Commission is considering how the Party nominates candidates. The Chairs Day will be held at Assabet Valley Regional High School in Marlboro on the morning of Sat. 29 Mar; in the afternoon, there will be concurrent hearings of both the Glodis-Barrios-Gay Committee and the McGovern-Dukakis Commission. The Action Agenda Committee is co-chaired by Chris Gabrielli, Mayor Sharon Pollard of Methuen and Rep. Cheryl Rivera of Springfield; hearings by this committee are tentatively scheduled for Apr. in Maynard. At the convention in Lowell, there will be 3 breakout sessions on Fri. afternoon and 5 on Sat. morning; the convention will run from 11 am-3 pm on 7 June. Ms. Donaghue made clear in response to questions that the commissions of inquiry, above, are limited to issues at the state level; input to the DNC is through the elected DNC members, e.g., former Sudbury resident, Ginny Allan.

20-year members of STDC are: Jeanne Maloney, Judith Deutsch, Maurice Fitzgerald, Jeremy Glass, Maxine Yarbrough, Helga Andrews, Jo Ann Savoy, John Walsh, Jr., and Winifred Fitzgerald. 20-year members are members in perpetuity, need not run for re-election again and are not counted towards the 35-member limit.

John Thomas, who is considering a run for state representative, introduced himself. Mr. Thomas grew up in Sudbury and now lives in Wayland. He is a registered lobbyist and works for non-profit organizations in aid of the mentally retarded. Contact: johnct@attbi.com.

The Chair announced that STDC had 9 openings, 5 of which were filled by consenting nomination and acclamation: Vimi Verma, Paul Pakos, Esther Mann, Deann Rubin, and Claire Schlosser. Ms. Donaghue explained that TDC members need to be registered Democrats and work toward the election of Democrats. They are precluded from publicly supporting opponents of a nominee of the Democratic Party.

Henry Noer reported that he had made contact with the office of US Rep. Martin Meehan but no progress in arranging a meeting between STDC and Meehan.

The question of a mission statement, separate from the state charter of STDC and town bylaw, was discussed. It was agreed that a statement of purpose called a "Mission Statement" or similar appellation would be appropriate. Henry Noer intends to draft a statement for distribution by email, with the hope that the statement can be approved at the next meeting.

The USA Patriot Act and proposed amendments to that Act were discussed briefly, and there was general agreement that STDC ought to formulate a public resolution in opposition to the grave dangers to civil rights that the Act presents. A sub-committee, headed by Henry Noer and including Deann Rubin, Carl Offner, Donald Chauls and Thomas Hollocher, was formed to write the resolution and present it to STDC.

It was moved and approved unanimously to place an ad in The Town Crier opposing preemptive war against Iraq and recent attacks on civil rights and liberties by the Bush Administration, expenditures from reserves not to exceed \$200. A sub-committee of Deann Rubin, Carl Offner and Jeanne Maloney was formed to prepare the ad and explore with neighboring towns the possibility of publishing a related ad cooperatively.

It was moved and approved to organize an anti-war vigil with signs on the morning of Sat. 8 Mar. at the town common.

Announcements

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

The next meeting of the STDC is scheduled for 7:30 pm Thurs. 20 Mar. in the Unitarian Church.

Please submit to the Secretary the text or outline of verbal reports made at meetings.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary STDC, 4 Mar. 2003.