

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2003

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 27 February 2003 were approved without further revision.

Carrie Pollack was voted unanimously into the Committee as a new member.

Beverly Guild reminded the meeting of the Annual Chairs' Day which is to be held on 29 March at the Assabet Valley Regional Technical School in Marlboro. Under an original rule, attendees were to be the town committee chairperson plus one other from that committee. That rule has been revoked so that the meeting will be open to as many Committee members as may be interested.

Jonathan Scarsic reported on the work of the Outreach Committee that is holding meetings around the state in preparation for the Issues Convention in June. He expressed reservation and disappointment in his experience to date with that Committee and wondered whether a meaningful report would emerge. The Committee has little structure and no clear statement of purpose, and seems to be a vehicle to allow people to vent their opinions.

The discussion then turned to whether the SDTC ought to appropriate money to buy signs to distribute at peace vigils for use as lawn signs. It was decided not to appropriate money for the purpose. We might accept a contribution to the Committee from those interested in taking a sign home.

Henry Noer announced that Rep. Martin Meehan will be featured at a public meeting in Sudbury on Wednesday 23 April, perhaps starting as early as 6 pm. Details will be forthcoming.

As requested at the last meeting, Henry Noer distributed a draft of a Mission Statement for the SDTC. This statement, entitled *Mission Statement of the Democratic Town Committee of Sudbury*, was accepted unanimously and will be appended to these Minutes when they are approved.

Henry Noer reported in behalf of the Civil Liberties Subcommittee. It was proposed and approved that the next SDTC meeting on 24 April be largely devoted to the issue of restrictions on Civil Liberties. One or more well-informed speaker will be invited and there was broad agreement that the Board of Selectmen should be invited to send a representative. It is expected that an important outcome of this meeting will be the planning of a public forum on this issue in May, perhaps at the Goodnow Library. The Civil Liberties Subcommittee will meet on 1 April to consider a resolution for submission to the Town and to plan for the meetings.

A two-part editorial, written by Tom Hollocher, on the monetary costs of the military and war was discussed. The issue was whether the SDTC should endorse the piece and, if so, in what format. It was proposed, debated, and approved by a show of hands to endorse, with the understanding that attribution should indicate the author's name followed by the words, "endorsed by the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee".

Announcements

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 Thursday 24 April in the Unitarian Church.

Please remember to submit to the Secretary a copy of text or outline of verbal reports made at meetings, particularly if the report is long or complex.