

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2003

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twenty-two persons were in attendance, including Kate Donaghue and two others from the State Committee (James McGowan from Acton and Russ Ashton from Wayland). There were nineteen voting members. Notice of the meeting again failed to appear in the Town Crier. Omissions of this kind need to be remedied.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22 May 2003, that had been vetted by email, were approved without further revision.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported that about \$350 remains in the SDTC account currently.

Four persons were elected to the Committee: Donald Chauls, David Levington, Audrey Levington, and Betty Thorner.

Retrospective discussion of the two-part editorial on excessive military spending which appeared in the Town Crier in April: Henry Sorett objected to the Committee's endorsement of the editorial, to its content and to his lack of knowledge of its existence before publication. He made two specific requests. First, that in future Committee endorsement of an editorial or related document be vetted by every member of the Committee at least two weeks before publication; and second, that the Committee now publicly revoke its previous endorsement of the military spending editorial. The second request was cast as a motion, seconded and defeated after discussion by a vote of 18 to 1. On the issue of prior notification of all members, it was pointed out by Ms. Guild and others that the work of the Committee is conducted largely through monthly meetings and email. Members interested in the ongoing activities of the Committee should avail themselves of these two means of remaining informed and having a voice. Like most organizations, the Committee requires neither the participation of all nor absolute unanimity to conduct business.

Kate Donaghue presented a summary of some upcoming state Democratic events that were also duplicated in her email Dispatch. The next state Democratic Convention has been set for 8 May 2004.

Wrap-up discussion of the recent Issues Convention in Lowell: Attendees liked the opportunity to talk to people and politicians about issues, especially about the USA-PATRIOT Act. Specific dislikes mentioned were the sound system, John Kerry's speech, lack of an agenda, and inadequate dining facilities.

Henry Noer reported that the Board of Selectmen declined to consider the Committee's Resolution opposing the USA-PATRIOT Act for adoption by the Town of Sudbury. The Selectmen declined on grounds that adoption of such a Resolution was not strictly town business. Copies of the request and the reply will be attached to these minutes.

Plans for participation of the Committee in the July 4th festivities were discussed. Marching with a banner and the manning of a booth or table in the park were considered feasible goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Announcements

Remember to pay our 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 17 July in the Unitarian Church. Subsequent meeting dates are 28 August, 18 September, 23 October, and 20 November also in the Unitarian Church, unless otherwise indicated.

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.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 7 July 2003.