

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 28 August 2003**

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 17 July 2003, that had been vetted by email, were approved without further revision, except for one minor typographical error pointed out by Judy Deutsch and corrected in hand.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported assets of about \$400 in the SDTC account. At her suggestion, it was agreed to make 1 January the anniversary date for annual dues.

A discussion occurred as to whether the minutes of meetings ought to include the names of those in attendance. It was decided that in future the attendance sheet shall be attached to the approved minutes and thereby become part of the permanent record.

Donald Chauls continued discussion of the question, should President Bush be impeached for gross misrepresentations prior to the preemptive invasion of Iraq. In a document prepared for discussion, he emphasized the criteria that would be necessary and sufficient for impeachment. Although most in attendance felt that the President's actions were impeachable, it was also realized that the Republican dominated Congress would do nothing to initiate impeachment proceedings without a large popular movement. It was also argued that, if Mr. Bush could be politically crippled by his misdeeds, lies, and misrepresentations over Iraq, the economy, the environment, etc., Democrats would realize a greater advantage than that afforded possibly by impeachment proceedings, which might in any case fail. Failed impeachment might be the worst possible outcome, because Mr. Bush would surely use it as vindication of his case. A subcommittee of Chauls, Hollocher, Maxine Yarbrough, and Carrie Pollock was formed to consider further the issue of impeachment.

Judy Deutsch informed that 8 October is the date for a hearing to move H/S 686 out of Committee in the Massachusetts Legislature. H/S 686 is the single payer Massachusetts Health Care Trust Bill, of which Senators Fargo and Resor are sponsors, but Representative Pope is not. We were urged to contact these three legislators with messages of support for the Act. Judy volunteered to compose collective letters to Fargo, Resor and Pope from the SDTC that would be vetted by email. SDTC members were further urged to attend the hearing, lobby our delegation, and speak in support at the hearing.

Henry Noer reported on continuing efforts to encourage Sudbury to adopt a Resolution in opposition to the unconstitutional provisions of the USA-PATRIOT Act. He would make an effort to have the Selectmen consider the Resolution at their meeting of 16 Sept. In his opinion there were still not enough signatures on the petition for consideration; something on the order of 500 would be useful.

Jerry Glass expressed frustration at the chaotic process by which the National Democratic Party solicits funds. Time did not permit discussion of this matter, which might be considered again in future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Announcements

Volunteers are needed to man the booth or table of SDTC on Sudbury Day, 20 September, from 12-5 pm.

A meeting of the League of Women Voters will be held in Bedford on 25 October. Contact Judy Deutsch for details.

The ACLU is mounting a major effort to build opposition to and ultimately rescind the USA-PATRIOT Act, and it can use volunteers to collect signatures for a Mass. State Resolution opposing the Act. and to serve in other ways. There will be an awards meeting of the ACLU in Boston on 22 September to honor members of congress and others who opposed the Act. Contact the ACLU or Henry for details.

Attorney General Ashcroft may give a speech in support of the USA-PATRIOT Act in Boston sometime in September. If he does so, Henry Noer suggested that we join a protest demonstration that will be organized to oppose the substance of the speech and the Act itself.

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 18 September in the Unitarian Church. Subsequent meeting dates are 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, 16 Sept. 2003.