

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2003

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 28 August 2003, that had been vetted by email and also available in printed form at the meeting, were not approved before adjournment. It would seem that this business was postponed and then forgotten by all and sundry.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported assets of about \$350 in the SDTC account. She reminded the assembly that we have set 1 January as the anniversary date for annual dues.

Deann Rubin received a vote of thanks for her work in creating the Bill of Rights poster for use at the SDTC table on Sudbury Day.

The question of meeting dates was discussed. It was clear that Thursdays posed conflicts for some people, e.g., Carl Offner. Wednesdays also presented problems for some and so did other days. It was finally agreed to hold our monthly meetings on Wednesday and Thursday alternately. **Accordingly, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22 October, not 23 October as scheduled some months ago.**

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 had about 100 signatures on the petition that requests the Selectmen to take up consideration of the Resolution, and suggested that this number was not sufficient. He appealed for the Committee to get more signatures, perhaps several hundred. An important objective of those who will man the SDTC table on Sudbury Day (20 September) will be to collect signatures on the petition. [In fact, about 100 additional signatures were obtained on Sudbury Day.] Noer also gave an account of the efforts underway to adopt a Massachusetts Resolution on constitutional rights and in opposition to the USA-PATRIOT Act. He is personally involved and would welcome the participation of others. Finally, witnesses gave accounts of the events and protests surrounding the speech that John Ashcroft gave in Boston in early September.

Donald Chauls reported that the subcommittee appointed to consider the impeachment question (Chauls, Hollocher, M. Yarbrough, and Pollock) had not yet met but would meet soon. [Subsequently a meeting was held on 25 September.]

Henry Noer introduced a draft of a Resolution that he hoped would be endorsed by the Committee as a whole. The Resolution linked approval of the \$87 billion recently requested by President Bush to rescinding the tax cuts awarded the rich during the Bush administration. In the discussion that followed, it was clear that although most agreed with the general idea of a Resolution of this kind, some felt that even greater concessions were warranted -- clear and open accounting of exactly how the money would be spent; dismissal of Donald Rumsfeld and the gang of war; transfer of authority in Iraq and Afghanistan to the UN. Some wondered whether Congress should simply refuse the request. Noer finally agreed to prepare another draft and see if it could be vetted by email.

Jonathan Sclarsic gave an account of his summer internship in the General Accounting Office in Washington DC. In connection with the aforementioned Resolution against the \$87 billion request, he pointed out that the power of investigation which GAO possesses can be used creatively. For example, if requested by a Congressman, the GAO could undertake a detailed accounting of supplemental appropriations passed in connection with Iraq.

The web site, voter.com, is useful in that it compares the positions of the several Democratic candidates for president.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Announcements

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. Resolution opposing the Act. and to serve in other ways. Contact the ACLU or Henry Noer for details.

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 on **Wednesday 22 October** in the Unitarian Church. The November meeting is still scheduled for Thursday the 20th.

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. This is the only way to assure that an accurate summary is entered into the minutes.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 2 October 2003.