

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 22 October 2003

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

The minutes of the previous two meetings, those of August and September, were submitted and approved without change.

In the absence of Helga Andrews, Treasurer, the Treasurer's report was omitted.

Beverly Guild led a discussion of some recently suggested ideas about raising money for the Massachusetts State and Town Committees. One plan involved the acquisition of a particular credit card by individuals, each one of which would generate a monetary donation to the State Committee. Another would involve periodic lunch meetings by Town Committees, at which special contributions to the treasury would be made. Neither idea met with enthusiasm. An alternative suggestion was simply to increase our yearly dues. Nothing definite was decided.

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 hoped to present the signature petitions and Resolution to the Selectmen for consideration in the very near future, perhaps next week. He asked that others accompany him for the presentation. Failing acceptance of the Resolution by the Selectmen, he proposed that it be introduced as a Article in the next Town Warrant, thus bypassing the Selectmen. Noer also summarized national and state efforts. There are now 190 or more towns and cities that have adopted resolutions opposing the USA-PATRIOT Act and three states. He is working with the ACLU Civil Liberties Task Force and other organizations in an intensive effort to pass a Resolution for Massachusetts. Hearings on this legislation are scheduled for 15 December. Contact Noer for details. In Congress, a bill has been introduced by Senators Larry Craig and Richard Durbin (the SAFE Act of 2003) that seeks to rescind the worst provisions* of the USA-PATRIOT Act of 2001. [Rep. Dennis Kucinich introduced a related bill even more recently (the Benjamin Franklin True Patriot Act, H.3171) that now needs co-sponsorship. -- Secretary's. interjection]

Donald Chauls, Thomas Hollocher, and Carl Offner reported on work of the subcommittee convened to consider the accountability of President George Bush over his lies and distortions in the run up to the preemptive invasion of Iraq. These three met and drew up a document suitable for an op-ed piece in a newspaper. Although the document mentions impeachment, it does so only as a possible logical outcome of a detailed investigation that is recommended to Congress. Otherwise the document lays the foundation for the crimes of self-serving falsehood and distortion. The draft document was discussed at some length and heat, and was finally approved with a few suggestions for minor changes by a vote of 6-4 (there were non-members present who could not vote). The document will be sent, under Beverly Guild's signature, to the Globe, Herald, and Town Crier in succession, in hope of publication in one, and also to Congressmen, state legislators, Democratic presidential candidates, and the Democratic State and National Committees.

The Holiday Party of the SDTC was set for Sunday 14 December in the Hosmer House and will include a potluck supper.

Judy Deutsch reported that Dennis Kucinich will appear at a rally at North Station, Boston, on 24 September on his way to New Hampshire on the campaign trail. She also reported on a recently conceived effort to enact a Constitutional Amendment in Massachusetts for universal health care. She hopes to get petitions to sign next month. She also reported that about 700

people, very largely supporters, attended recent hearings on H.696, the Massachusetts health care bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Announcements

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. 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 **Thursday 20 November** 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. This is the only way to assure that an accurate summary is entered into the minutes.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 26 October 2003.

*Objectionable provisions of the USA-PATRIOT Act

Sections 203 & 901 -- CIA permitted to spy on Americans.

Section 213 -- secret sneak and peak searches.

Section 214 -- electronic surveillance of internet traffic without probable cause.

Section 215 -- secret searches of businesses, libraries, etc. without probable cause and with criminal prohibition against disclosure of such searches by supervisors of records..

Section 216 -- electronic surveillance in criminal cases without probable cause and nameless wiretap warrants.

Section 218 -- expansion of use of secret electronic surveillance in criminal law enforcement.

Section 411 -- expanded grounds for deportation of non-citizens.

Section 412 -- permits indefinite incarceration of immigrants and other non-citizens without evidence of terrorist activities.

Section 505 -- use of "National Security Letters" to seize records without a court order.

[An amendment to expand this authority has been added to the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2003, H.2417/S.1025.]

Section 507 -- obtaining confidential educational records.

Section 802 -- expanded definition of domestic terrorism that could include political activism and civil disobedience.

Section 806 -- seizure without notice or hearing of assets of individuals alleged to participate in or plan terrorist acts.