

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

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22 October 2003, that had been vetted by email and also available in printed form at the meeting, were approved without change.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported assets of \$226 in the SDTC account. She reminded the assembly again that we have set 1 January as the anniversary date for annual dues.

Henry Noer reported on efforts to have the town of Sudbury and the state of Massachusetts approve resolutions opposing elements of the USA-PATRIOT Act. The League of Women Voters examined the town draft resolution and expressed reservations regarding the paragraph that requires Sudbury to withhold its cooperation in the case of federal activities under the Act that are considered to be unconstitutional and in violation of civil liberties. Noer recommended that the paragraph be deleted, partly because of the potential legal perplexities raised by non-cooperation - - who is to decide?, How?, What trigger?. After some discussion, his recommendation was accepted unanimously. The paragraph regarding town reporting will remain and that provision ought to give the town the opportunity to alert the population to untoward or repressive federal activities within Sudbury. Noer now plans to meet with the Town Manager during the first or second week of December and present the resolution and signature petitions for consideration at the meeting of the Selectmen on 18 December. If the Selectmen fail to consider the matter, then he plans to present the Resolution to the spring town meeting as a Warrant article. Noer expressed the hope that several members of the SDTC will accompany him for the presentation of material to the Town Manager.

Noer distributed a draft of the state resolution and indicated that it would soon be submitted to the legislature for consideration. **He asked that SDTC members contact their state representative and senators during December and ask that they support the resolution.** A press conference is planned for 15 December to publicize the resolution. Approval of the state resolution is expected by the end of June.

Peggy Fredrickson, a registered Republican in Sudbury, has expressed an interest in the town resolution and may lend her support.

The holiday party has been set definitely for 7 pm on 14 December in the Hosmer House. It was agreed to extend invitations, through the secretary, to our two state senators, state committee members in their districts, chair of the state party, Governor's Council representative, the elected state officers, Marty Meehan, Jinny Allen, and Kate Donaghue -- some 24 persons in all. Beverly Guild appealed for volunteers to provide refreshments and carry out other tasks to make the party a success.

Judy Deutsch indicated that the signature petitions for the health care constitutional amendment were past due and were now no longer relevant.

A general discussion focused on a perceived vagueness and unresponsiveness of persons staffing telephones in Rep. Martin Meehan's offices. They often seem to have little idea or information as to Meehan's position on important and current legislative issues and other political matters. Several specific examples were cited. A letter of complaint might be in order should this unsatisfactory situation continue.

Beverly Guild advised the meeting that John Thomas is serious about running for state representative and will announce in the spring. Stas Gayshan may also be a candidate. She suggested that at an appropriate time the SDTC, or a subcommittee thereof, ought to interview the

candidate(s). **She also expressed concern for the poor attendance at this and other recent meetings and urged more members to attend and actively participate.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Announcements

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2003 dues of \$25 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury. 2004 dues are expected on or about 1 January 2004

The next meeting of the SDTC is scheduled for 7:15 pm on **Wednesday 14 January** 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, 2 December 2003.