

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2004

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of 20 November, 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 \$275 in the SDTC account. She reminded the assembly again that we have set 1 January as the anniversary date for annual dues and hoped that dues would be received in a timely manner.

Beverly Guild began the meeting with a brief discussion of the Holiday Party of the SDTC in December. There seemed to be agreement that the Party was a successful social occasion, in spite of the snow storm.

She then reminded the meeting that the annual democratic caucus will be held in the Fairbank Senior Center at 1 pm on Saturday 24 January 2004, the chief purpose of which is to elect ten delegates and six alternates to the Democratic State Convention at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, on 8 May. Persons registered as Democrats in Sudbury by 31 December 2003 are eligible to participate in the caucus. At the Convention, the Massachusetts Democratic Campaign Institute plans to offer a program of seminars and workshops focused on campaign tactics and techniques entitled, "The Keys to Victory in 2004".

Henry Noer reported on efforts to encourage Sudbury to adopt the Resolution opposing provisions of the USA Patriot Act. Copies of the latest version of the Resolution (attached to these Minutes) and supporting material had been presented to the Selectmen in late December and early January in the hope that they would schedule its consideration at their meeting of 20 January or 3 February. He urged members of the SDTC to contact the Selectmen directly or through the Town Hall and ask for consideration and acceptance of the Resolution. He also reported that the required papers and signatures had been acquired for consideration of the Resolution at April's Town Meeting as a Warrant Article. [As of this date, 24 January, the Selectmen would appear to remain adverse to consideration of the Resolution, according to recent information from Noer. (Secretary's insertion)]. Noer also reported that 233 towns and cities in the US have adopted Resolutions opposing the USA Patriot Act and that the National League of Cities has now come out against the Act.

Thomas Hollocher reported on efforts to have the position paper, entitled "Accountability of President Bush", published in a local newspaper. This paper had been endorsed by the SDTC at its October meeting with instructions to undertake publication as an op-ed piece in the Boston Globe, Herald, Metrowest, or Sudbury Town Crier (attempted in that order). By inaction, it can be assumed that the first three of these four newspapers have declined to publish. Hollocher raised the possibility that the newspapers may have viewed the article, with its SDTC endorsement, as a political ad in this very political season. Henry Sorett moved and received a second to remove SDTC sponsorship entirely from the article on grounds that it was too inflammatory and would have adverse political consequences. The motion was defeated 9 to 2. After some discussion and in response to a suggestion by Sorett, it was decided to offer the Town Crier the choice of three different kinds of sponsorship upon submission: 1.) the SDTC (as per the first three newspapers); 2.) the three authors (Chauls, Hollocher and Offner) with endorsement from the SDTC; 3.) just the three authors with no mention of the SDTC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Announcements

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

The next meeting of the SDTC is scheduled for 7:15 pm on **Thursday 19 February** in the Unitarian Church.

A public forum, The People Speak: Framingham Debates America's Role in the World, will be held on 25 February at 7 pm in the lower Nevins Hall in the Memorial Building. Contact Dean or Maxine Yarbrough for further information.

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, 24 January 2004.