

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 19 February 2004**

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twenty-three persons were in attendance, as documented by the attached attendance record. These included Kate Donaghue, State Committee; candidate Stas Gayshan; and his assistant, Natalia Clark.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 14 January, 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 \$325 in the SDTC account. The SDTC recently set 1 January as the anniversary date for annual dues; consequently, the present account ought to be \$800 or more. Many evidently have neglected to pay dues.

Kate Donaghue discussed the campaign of Democrat Angus McQuilken of Millis, who is running against Republican state Representative Scott Brown for the state Senate seat recently vacated by Cheryl Jacques. The election for this seat will occur on 2 March. There are opportunities for volunteers to assist the campaign of McQuilken by staffing phone banks, door-to-door solicitation, etc. Details are available through Ms. Donaghue, her weekly email Dispatch, and McQuilken headquarters.

Beverly then introduced Stas Gayshan, who is running against John Thomas for the seat of Mass. Rep. Susan Pope. Gayshan is from Wayland and is particularly interested in the impact of escalating health insurance on small businesses and on the need for a universal health care system. In addition, he is in favor of substantial reductions in real estate taxes for the elderly and poor. The discussion of issues was far ranging.

Henry Noer announced that the town resolution opposing aspects of the USA-Patriot Act has become a Town Warrant article, specifically, the last article. He stressed the importance of 1) encouraging people to attend the last session of town meeting in order that there be a quorum, and 2) holding an educational forum in town a couple of weeks before town meeting. A newspaper article would be useful as well. Mr. Noer reported that New York city passed a resolution opposing the Patriot Act. He continues to work to realize a Massachusetts state resolution.

Beverly Guild reminded us of an organizational obligation: At the next SDTC meeting after the primary election on 2 March, we must elect new officers. This necessarily will occur on 24 March. Her proposal to establish a nominating committee was declined in favor of nominations from the floor. An informal poll suggested that most current officers would agree to serve another term, if it so pleases the Committee.

The four points of Donald Chauls' document, that addresses goals for a Better America, were discussed. It was suggested, due to the breadth and scope of the goals set forth, that each could become a topic of discussion at a future meeting. It would be useful in this regard, to examine the national and state platforms of the Democratic Party to see to what extent these conform with or diverge from Chauls' views. It was hoped that he would assume the lead in organizing and scheduling these discussions.

Jonathan Sclarsic, newly returned from the Howard Dean campaign, briefly summarized his experiences as a political organizer. Among the lessons of relevance to Sudbury is the need to bring neighbors and local people together in house meetings so that they can discuss the candidate and the political issues of concern together face to face. Coherent thinking on issues and an ability to express those thoughts clearly are mutually reinforcing activities. Small group meetings encourage people to talk, think, and know themselves.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 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 were expected on or about 1 January 2004. **This is important!**

The next meeting of the SDTC is scheduled for 7:15 pm on **Wednesday 24 March** 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.

**The primary election is Tuesday 2 March.**

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 28 February 2004.