

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2004

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twenty-two persons were in attendance, as documented by the attached attendance record. Attendees included Sheriff of Middlesex County, Jim DiPaola, who is running for re-election this year.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 19 February, 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 \$545 in the SDTC account. Helga reminded the meeting that the SDTC had set 1 January as the anniversary date for annual dues and urged payment of outstanding dues at one's earliest convenience. She read the names of those members who have paid their dues.

Beverly Guild presented the results of the recent primary election of 2 March. The entire slate of 20 candidates for the SDTC were elected, leaving a total of 15 vacancies that could be filled by action of the Committee at this and subsequent meetings in order to reach the limit of 35 members stipulated in our Bylaws (copy to be attached to these minutes). Nominations were made, seconded, and unanimously approved to afford membership to Jacqueline Bausk, Dorothy Sears, Carrie Pollack, and Claire Schlosser. Notice of the election of the 20 members elected on 2 March and the four members elected today will be sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Secretary of the Democratic State Committee, and the Town Clerk, in accordance with the Bylaws. Consideration was given to the election of Dean Bruce Langmuir to associate membership, but he was not at the time a registered Democrat. Action was therefore deferred. At present, we have 11 twenty-year members who serve in perpetuity.

A motion was made and seconded to re-elect the existing officers of the SDTC. After each officer agreed to continue in office, and no member volunteered to replace the Secretary in spite of an appeal to this effect by the present Secretary, the motion was carried unanimously. Accordingly, the re-elected officers are: Chairperson, Beverly Guild; Vice Chairperson, Carmine Gentile; Secretary, Thomas Hollocher; Treasurer, Helga Andrews; Affirmative Action and Outreach Advisor, Maurice Fitzgerald; Program Chairperson, Henry Noer.

Our guest, Sheriff Jim DiPaola, addressed the meeting to represent the case for his re-election as Sheriff. His approach to law enforcement and the operation of prisons seems enlightened and relatively humane, centering on community services, rehabilitation, education and job training.

The meeting considered Jonathan Sclarsic's proposal, that had been circulated previously by email (copy in records), to establish several standing or action committees to further the work of the SDTC, particularly that work required of us between now and the presidential elections in November. There was much discussion on the need, function and naming of such committees, which are clearly allowed by the Bylaws and can be appointed by the Chairperson. It was finally agreed to constitute three committees and to staff them initially with volunteers drawn from attendees at this meeting. The committees, with volunteer participants in parenthesis, are: Membership/Outreach (H. Andrews, T. Hollocher, and J. Sclarsic); Fundraising (J. Glass); and Election/Political (B. Bishop, C. Gentile; B. Langmuir, E. Mann, L. O'Brian, C. Pollack, D. Rubin, C. Schlosser, J. Sclarsic, S. Thel, V. Verma, D. Yarbrough, and M. Yarbrough). These committees are expected to meet before the next meeting, generate ideas and proposals, choose a head or chairperson, attract more participants if necessary, and generally get down to business. Reports from these committees are expected at the next SDTC meeting in April.

Henry Noer reported on plans to publicize and promote Article 56, the Sudbury resolution against the USA-Patriot Act, before and at Town Meeting in April. He also said that a hearing concerning the Massachusetts resolution will be held in the State House in May. Details will follow by group email.

It was widely agreed that the SDTC ought to participate in the 2004 July 4th celebration in Sudbury.

Although the original agenda of the meeting had called for a discussion of the political essay on taxation written by Donald Chauls and circulated by email (copy in records), time did not permit consideration of this item. Chauls suggested that those interested might join with him soon at some mutually convenient time and place to discuss this and perhaps other issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 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 **Thursday 22 April** 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.

Town Meeting begins on 7 April at 7:30 pm.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 1 April 2004.