

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 21 July 2004

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twenty-four persons were in attendance, as documented by the attached attendance record, of which 19 were SDTC members.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 17 June, that had been vetted by email and also available in printed form at the meeting, were approved without change.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported that assets of \$350 remain in the SDTC account. An advance payment of \$100 was made to secure a facility for the SDTC fundraising event on 19 September. Other expenses associated with the event make it urgent that outstanding yearly dues be paid now. Advanced contributions to the fundraiser would also be useful and much appreciated.

Claire Schlosser led a detailed review and discussion of the state of planning for the SDTC fundraiser on 19 September. The Longfellow Health Center has been reserved for the fundraiser, former Representative Robert F. Drinan will be the featured speaker, and an comprehensive effort on publicity is underway. This effort will cover Sudbury and a number of surrounding towns, including those that comprised elements of Drinan's former electoral district. Publicity will include: notices for posting, a fundraising letter to selected persons, newspapers, radio, and television. A draft of the poster was discussed and modifications were made in it. The subject of Drinan's talk is likely to be a linking of Vietnam and Iraq, but an exact title had yet to be chosen. There was some discussion of who and how many state officials and Democratic candidates ought to be invited. [It was noted in this regard that the Secretary has a list of officials invited to our 2003 Christmas party.] The meeting was in agreement, however, that such Democratic celebrities and officials who show up could be introduced but should not speak. There was also discussion of what the SDTC could or should do with funds raised at the event, and what, if anything, we are obliged to say about the disposition of funds in our advertising literature and press releases. Some thought that we ought to indicate that funds raised would be used to support state and national candidates or state and national committees, or both; but others suggested that it is wise to say nothing about this matter, which, after all, will be decided by the SDTC when met after funds are in hand. Indeed the fundraiser can be thought of as undertaken for the support of the Committee and its sundry activities. Publicity materials need to include instructions on exactly how people can make contributions before the event.

James McGowan of the Massachusetts State Committee was in attendance and addressed the meeting. He reported that a document is available from the state committee that instructs on political organizing and campaigning. The greater part of his remarks were devoted, however, to an explanation as to why the state committee is perpetually so under funded that it is often unable to perform those things necessary for the optimal support of town committees and state candidates. In brief, he attributed this circumstance to the fact that Democrats in Massachusetts make donations in the context of electoral politics rather than party politics; that is, they support Democratic candidates for office directly rather than through the state committee. Indeed, it seems that they do not support the state committee much at all. This may be an explanation but it does not speak to a remedy to the chronic under funding. To a significant extent, the state committee is strapped because it has not engaged in serious fund raising over the years and had done little to educate Democrats to the existence and importance of the state committee. In consequence, it is unable to exert much leadership and party discipline in Massachusetts. This topic might bear further discussion at a future meeting.

Henry Noer reported that Senator Susan Fargo now has a campaign office located on Main St. in Waltham, just west of Route 128. She is in need of volunteers, as is Senator Pamela Resor. Noer solicited one-sentence topics from the meeting to be forwarded to Kerry Headquarters for possible inclusion in Kerry's acceptance speech.

Tom Hollocher led a discussion, based on his email brief of 7/19/04 (entered in the record), of some recent comments attributed in the press to Senator John Kerry that Hollocher found distressingly close to positions staked out by President Bush. These comments concerned life's beginning at conception, his opposition to same-sex marriage, support for Israel against Palestinians, and his curious notion that the US burden of Iraq will somehow be lifted by internationalization, a thing unlikely to happen. Above all, Kerry needs to offer hope of a brave new world, a liberating *zeitgeist*, and emphatically reject the policies of Bush. A few expressed similar concerns about Kerry and hoped that he might be more bold and populist, but most were not overly troubled. It was argued that Kerry is in process of formulating and honing his message and that he will become more of an inspirational and distinctive candidate in the near future. He is a good man with liberal credentials whose judgment and honor can be trusted. On the religious issues, it was pointed out that Kerry does oppose a Constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage and that he will uphold a woman's right to choose, personal opinions notwithstanding.

After setting **the next meeting for 7:15 pm on Wednesday 8 September at the Unitarian Church of Sudbury**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.

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, 27 July 2004.