Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 23 June 2005

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Fourteen persons were in attendance as indicated by the attached sign-in sheet. Ten were members of SDTC; the remaining four, Robert Savoy, Sara Gentile, George Siscoe, and state party member Kate Donaghue, were guests.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 18 May, that had been vetted by email, were approved without change, and paper copies of those minutes were distributed on 23 June.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported that the SDTC has a balance of $1670 as of June. In addition, she submitted a written financial statement for 2004, which is inserted in the permanent record.

Kate Donaghue took the floor and thanked the committee for having hosted the recent event for Martha Coakley and Charles Murphy. She then reported on topics of general interest to the SDTC: Middlesex and Worcester Democrats in Senator Resor's district have initiated a discussion program that meets every second Tuesday and focuses on a specific topic at each meeting. Members of the SDTC are urged to attend. The July meeting (12 July at 7 pm at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough) will be devoted to "how to talk about democratic beliefs to other Democrats". They hope to have Thomas Reilly, Attorney General, as featured guest at a later meeting. Concerns and complaints about the recent Massachusetts Democratic Convention in Lowell should be referred to Phil Johnston, Massachusetts Party Chairman. The window for holding the next Democratic caucus is 4-12 February 2006. Volunteers, particularly precinct captains, are needed for the Victory 2006 campaign. Five captains are recommended for Sudbury's five precincts to work the voter registration lists with use of the computerized SAGE data base. The event of 20 June in Boston featuring Howard Dean raised about $300,000, attracted many young people, and conveyed a serious sense of mission and involvement.

Henry Noer reported that the SDTC website (www.sudburydems.org) is nearly up and running and, indeed, is expected to open on 24 June.

Noer reported on the hearing in Boston on 22 June of the House committee considering the Massachusetts resolution opposing elements of the USA-Patriot act and certain Presidential decisions (H. 1181). Some members of that committee were absent and, in fact, only 6 or 7 members sat at the hearing. Noer and many others testified in favor of the bill. Noer urged us to call Representative Atkins or Senator Barrios and urge for prompt affirmative action to move H. 1181 out of Committee. Seven other states have now passed related resolutions supporting civil liberties.

Beverly Guild read a letter of resignation from Deann Rubin, who has taken up residence in St. Louis. The letter is inserted in the permanent record.

Esther Mann lead a discussion in support of an Act to Establish a Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Work Force Council (S. 139; H. 4055), sponsored by Senator Susan Fargo. The Council would be a non-governmental body charged with the recruitment, training, placement, and setting of pay and benefit scales for PCAs in Massachusetts. It is hoped that the Council might succeed in correcting the present unsatisfactory employment situation that PCAs face, a situation characterized by very low pay, poor training, lack of union representation, and high turnover. This circumstance is endangering occupants of nursing homes and patients in home care. Care Attendants would be excluded from the Council. The bill is supported by the Service Employees Union among other organizations. It was moved and seconded to support the bill, and the motion carried unanimously. Beverly Guild was charged with so informing Senator Fargo and other interested parties. The bill and documents pertaining to the bill are inserted in the permanent record.

Carl Offner recommended that we support and participate in a forum on Social Security on 25 September with the Weston DTC. A motion to this effect was seconded and passed unanimously.

There was overwhelming support for our participation in Sudbury's 4th of July parade and for the idea of having Senator Jarrit Barrios march with us.

The draft document of January 2005 by Representative Martin Meehan on the logic of and need for military withdrawal from Iraq was discussed. The meeting held that, whereas the logic of withdrawal was well and clearly developed in the document, it lacked a political action program that would force withdrawal upon a clearly reluctant administration. The Secretary was therefore charged with drafting a letter to Meehan that expresses this view and urges him to speak and vote against further special appropriations, the purpose of which is to continue the occupation of Iraq. This letter is to be vetted by email.

Sara Gentile and George Siscoe were nominate for membership on the SDTC and unanimously elected.

Henry Noer circulated a draft of a letter of complaint to President Bush regarding recent disparaging comments of Karl Rove. The draft was unanimously approved and the Secretary was charged to sign it in behalf of the Committee. This correspondence was completed on 24 June and a copy is inserted in the permanent record.

After confirming **the next meeting for Wednesday 13 July at the First Parish of Sudbury**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Announcements

The 3rd Middlesex District Democratic picnic, featuring candidates for Governor, will by held on Sunday 10 July from 12:30-4 pm at the residence of the Larkins, 246 Carlisle Road (Rt. 225), Bedford. Please notify the Larkins if you plan to attend.

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2005 dues of $25 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury. Dues were expected on or about 1 January 2005.

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, 10 July 2005