

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2005

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twenty persons were in attendance, including 16 members, Kate Donaghue of the Democratic State Committee, and 3 guests: Bob Savoy, and Clifford and Lara Ashkinazi (hawkeyesmd@aol.com). The names of those in attendance are indicated on the attached sign-in sheet.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 13 July, that had been vetted by email, were approved without change. Paper copies of the minutes were distributed at this evening's meeting.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported by email that the SDTC has a balance of \$1620 as of the third week of August.

Kate donaghue reminded us of upcoming political fora and Meet-up meetings of Middlesex and Worcester Democrats. These meetings will feature candidates for state office insofar as possible and are well worth attending. The next Meet-ups are scheduled for Boxborough, Littleton, and Hudson in September, October, and November, respectively. Consult Kate's weekly Democratic email dispatch for times and places of these and other events. In the discussion that followed Donaghue's presentation, Judy Deutsch described an incident at the 2005 Democratic State Convention in which a speaker on the issue of medical care and insurance spoke against single payer health care, which is a plank of the party platform, in favor of a different insurance plan. She complained about this lapse of party discipline and wanted to know to whom she could register a complaint about the incident. Donaghue responded that it ought to be addressed directly to the state party chairman, Phil Johnston, by email.

The Antiwar Subcommittee, Susan Thel and Cary Pollock, Co-chairpersons, reported on progress and plans to alert the community to our opposition to the war in and continuing occupation of Iraq. Through the Subcommittee's actions, a sizable contingent of Sudbury residents attended the recent candlelight vigil on the Concord Green. It hopes to mount an event, perhaps a candlelight vigil, to coincide with the peace march in Washington DC on 24 September, distribute a flyer at Sudbury day on the afternoon of 17 September, and cooperate in some way with local activities of antiwar veterans' groups on Veterans' Day, 11 November. In addition, a letter will be circulated to Sudbury churches urging that sermons on peace and war be delivered on the weekend of 24 September. A draft of a letter to the churches from Judy Deutsch (a first draft entered into the record) was distributed at the meeting. In the discussion that followed, there seemed to be broad general agreement with this schedule of proposed antiwar activities. Some changes in wording were suggested for the letter.

Henry Noer reported that the Massachusetts state resolution against provisions of the USA-Patriot Act got bottled up in legislative committee at least partly because the committee's chairperson was ill informed about the issues at hand and the importance of the resolution. In consequence, the matter is on hold until September when the legislature reconvenes. He urged that individuals and the SDTC as a whole lobby committee members to vote the resolution out of committee. If a favorable committee vote is not realized, the matter is dead for the time being.

Noer also remarked on the recent public statement of Pat Robertson calling for the U.S. to assassinate President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. This shocking statement was made on a television program of Robertson and therefore comes under the purview of the FCC. Noer urged us to protest this abuse of a public resource and call for the removal of Roberson from radio and TV.

Maxine Yarbrough expressed her disappointment that no one showed up at her recent meeting intended to begin to organize local support for Duval Patrick, candidate for Governor. Several at the SDTC meeting indicated continuing interest in Patrick and hoped that local support could be organized in spite of the fiasco of the unattended meeting. It was suggested that he be invited to

speaking at our next meeting in September, but no formal action was taken on that proposal and the matter was left to Yarbrough to explore. Failing this, a meeting featuring Patrick might be jointly setup and sponsored by several towns. Much depends on his schedule which is thought to be a very busy one.

It was voted unanimously to hold our annual holiday party again in December, and Win Fitzgerald will take care of setting date, time and place.

After confirming **the next meeting for Wednesday 21 September at the First Parish of Sudbury**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Announcements

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, 30 August 2005