

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 21 September 2005

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the Unitarian Church by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Seventeen persons were in attendance, including 16 members and a guest advocate, Kathleen Bean. The names of those in attendance are on the attached sign-in sheet.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 24 August, which 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 that the SDTC has a balance of \$1570 as of the third week of September.

Kathleen Bean appeared before the meeting to describe the current signature petition campaign in support of MassACT (Massachusetts Affordable Care Act) and to solicit signatures (descriptive document is in the record). Carl Offner spoke in behalf of the measure. It seems to have much support and, if enacted, should succeed in making health care available to many now denied such care because of income or the refusal or inability of employers to provide health care insurance as a fringe benefit. He was quick to point out, however, that it should be viewed as a stopgap measure, a possible step toward a single payer system with universal coverage. Doubt was expressed that an increased cigarette tax would provide significant funding to support MassACT. The measure was opposed in writing (document is in the record) by Judy Deutsch, who was absent. She pointed out that "increased access" to health care does not guarantee access to all and that it will carry high administrative costs due to means testing for eligibility, excessive paper work, and the high salaries afforded insurance industry executives. These and other considerations led her to advise against signing the petition for MassACT.

Carl Offner reminded the meeting that the Social Security forum will be held at 2 pm on Sunday 25 September in the Weston Middle School and urged all to attend. The SDTC is one of the sponsors of the event. Bring refreshments, if you can.

Susan Thel and Cary Pollock described well developed plans for the peace vigil to be held at the Sudbury common on the evening of 24 September, but said that plans for a Veterans' Day demonstration or event remained vague at this time. Tom Hollocher reported that the 3rdMAD plans to sponsor a forum on Iraq on 20 November and that he was invited to participate in its planning. Tom Larkin is leading the effort.

Maxine Yarbrough distributed literature (copy is in the record) relevant to Duval Patrick, Democratic candidate for Massachusetts Governor, and announced that he has been invited to speak and meet people at the Nixon School, probably on 1 December. Because one of the sponsors of the affair is the Wayland Democratic Town Committee, she asked whether part of the cost could be covered by the SDTC. The Committee felt that it ought not officially support any gubernatorial candidate at this time to avoid the appearance of favoritism. Rather, it was agreed that private contributions would be forthcoming to cover the costs.

Henry Noer summarized events on Sudbury Day, 17 September. The SDTC booth was staffed by Tom and Pam Hollocher, Maxine Yarbrough, and Noer. The staff managed to talk with at least 120 people judging from the number of quiz sheets completed and returned (copy of that political quiz is in the record). Candidates Festa and Barrios showed up and spoke with many people; campaign and other literature were distributed; and signatures were solicited for the Fair Districts for Fair Elections campaign. Noer also summarized some of the aggregate results of the quiz. Donations totaled \$2, which amount will be forwarded to the Red Cross for hurricane relief.

Tom Hollocher described the nature of the Fair Districts campaign to enact a constitutional amendment that would remove the ability to redraw political districts from the legislature and place it in the hands of a select commission (descriptive material is in the record). The intention is to de-

politicize the process and end the process of gerrymandering. He then called for volunteers to collect signatures for the petition. Four responded: Helga Andrews, Susan Thel, Beverly Guild, and Maxine Yarbrough.

After confirming **the next meeting for Wednesday 19 October at the First Parish of Sudbury**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Announcements

At 7 pm on 18 October, there will be a showing of the ACLU documentary movie, Freedom Files, at the First Parish of Concord.

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, 27 September 2005