

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 16 November 2005

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the First Parish Church of Sudbury by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Twelve persons (eleven members) were in attendance, the names of whom are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 19 October, 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 a balance of \$1320 in the Committee's account.

Susan Thel reported for the Peace Subcommittee. The Veteran's Day candle light peace vigil on the Sudbury Common, organized by an ad hoc group of citizens of whom some are also members of the SDTC, attracted an estimated 35-40 participants. In the immediate future, a peace vigil from noon to 12:30 pm will be held every Saturday on the Common. All are urged to participate.

The Secretary briefly described the terms of a Bill, H.R. 4232, recently introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. James McGovern of Massachusetts. This Bill, entitled "End the War in Iraq", calls for an end to all funding for the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq and for their safe and orderly withdrawal. Non-military spending in Iraq for purposes of physical and social reconstruction, health, education, etc. would not be prohibited or restricted. The Secretary asked the meeting to authorize him to urge our Representative, Martin Meehan, by letter to co-sponsor and support this Bill, the text of the letter to be vetted by email. This authorization was afforded by general affirmation.

The Chair summarized new rules and regulations pertaining to the next Democratic Caucus and the nominating Convention. Among the changes is the inclusion of the ex officio member in Sudbury's delegation of 10 delegates and 2 alternates, instead of lying outside the count of 10 and 2. At the convention, the voting mechanism for candidates to high office will be simplified and shortened. Also, the fee for attending the Convention is to be increased substantially. Beverly promised to summarize this body of detailed information and forward it to the Committee by email.

Maxine Yarbrough reminded everyone that the "Meet the Candidate" event featuring Deval Patrick, candidate for Governor, is on schedule for Thursday evening, 1 December, at the Goodnow Library.

The Secretary reported that the 35 or so invitations to our Holiday Party (evening of Sunday 4 December in the Hosmer House) have been prepared and largely posted.

Henry Noer reported that "The Resolution Affirming the Civil Rights and Liberties of the People of Massachusetts" (H.B. 1881) received a favorable report from the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security on 25 October, and will now be assigned to a steering committee in preparation for consideration by the entire legislature. This is good news, but it is uncertain whether it can be cleared from committee and voted on before the November recess. The process is such that once the House has a final version of the Bill, it must then go to the Senate.

In the U.S. Congress, action regarding renewal of the USA-Patriot Act has produced a very bad House-Senate reconciliation bill that contains none of the features that might have lessened the original law's attack on civil liberties. Noer recommended that we urgently call our Representative and instruct him to oppose renewal of the reconciliation bill as presently worded.

Doris Gannon was nominated for membership on the SDTC by the Chair and was unanimously elected.

Discussion of meeting days concluded that Wednesday meetings exclude too many members from attending, so that meetings must fall on other days rather than or in addition to Wednesday. No day of the week appeared to be perfectly acceptable. It was agreed to hold the next three meetings on

the second Tuesday of January, February, and March of 2006. Accordingly, **the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 January 2006 at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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 and will be expected anew at the beginning of 2006.

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, 4 December 2005.