

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2006

The meeting was convened at 7:15 pm in the First Parish Church of Sudbury by Chairperson Beverly Guild. Fifteen persons (fourteen members) were in attendance, the names of whom are listed on the attached sign-in sheet. A guest on the list was Bob Savoy; a guest not on the list was Thomas Conroy, an undeclared democratic candidate for representative running against Rep. Susan Pope.

Before the start of business, Mr. Conroy was given the floor to present himself and summarize briefly his political views and differences he sees between himself and Rep. Pope. He indicated that he has had much experience in Washington DC, particularly in connection with refugee work, and has spent some years in the Far East, e.g., Thailand and Burma. Currently he is Senior Vice President of Marsh USA, Inc., an insurance brokerage firm in Boston, and resides in Wayland. Mr. Conroy represented himself as a liberal Democrat who appeared to agree with most or all of the political views widely held by the SDTC. He intended to discuss his possible candidacy with John Thomas and announce shortly thereafter. Campaign literature and personal resume were not available at the meeting, but are available, he indicated, through an emailed request, which Secretary intends to make.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 16 November, 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 \$1380 in the Committee's account. Although this balance might appear to be substantial, she pointed out that it is bound to be drawn down somewhat during the next year, given the amount of our yearly dues (\$25), the historical record of actual payment of dues, and anticipated expenses. Accordingly, she proposed, by way of a motion, that the dues be increased to \$35 beginning in 2006. The motion received unanimous agreement.

Maxine Yarbrough reported on her leadership work in behalf of the candidacy of Deval Patrick for Governor. She is serving as the organizer for Sudbury and offered a slate of delegate nominees supporting Patrick for the Democratic Caucus on 4 February. These are: Donald Chauls, Tim Garvin, Tom Hollocher, Carl Offner, and Henry Sorett for the men, and Helga Andrews, Jeanne Maloney, Susan Thel, and Maxine Yarbrough for the women. The rules for selecting our allotment of ten convention delegates have changed now that the ex officio delegate, Beverly Guild, is included within our allotment and is not in addition to it. Thus, at the caucus, three independent votes will be taken to elect the nine regular delegates: The first will elect four men from the list of male nominees; the second similarly will elect four women from the list of female nominees; the third will elect either a man or woman from a list of nominees for the "odd" delegate. By this mechanism, the Sudbury delegation may comprise 5 men and 5 women, or 4 men and 6 women. Of course, there are "add-on" categories of delegates that could in principle swell the size of the Sudbury delegation. These are youth, minority, and disabled delegates. Add-on delegates are processed by the state committee separately from the caucus.

Maxine indicated that she will be unable probably to continue as Sudbury coordinator for the Patrick campaign, due to illness of her husband and appealed for a replacement. Tom Hollocher indicated a willingness to assist her in the campaign insofar as possible. The question of a replacement remained unresolved.

Susan Thel reported that the peace vigils on Saturday, 12-12:30 pm, will continue. Veterans for Peace has raised the possibility that the SDTC might march with that organization in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Henry Noer moved and received a second and unanimous agreement for the SDTC to be represented by telephone to our US Senators as opposing the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. The telephone message, to be delivered by Henry, states: "The Sudbury

Massachusetts Democratic Town Committee asks that you work to block the approval of Judge Samuel Alito for Supreme Court Justice. We also ask that you support a filibuster of Judge Alito, if necessary.” This action will be made public through a press release.

Chairperson Guild raised the recurring issue of meeting day for our monthly meetings. Whereas it was decided at the November meeting to hold the next three meetings on the second Tuesday of January, February, and March, it seems that second Tuesdays, like second and third Wednesdays previously, also seem to be problematic for a number of committee members. Thus, rather than meeting on Tuesday 14 February, Beverly suggested that we meet in the Senior Center on 4 February immediately following the caucus. This idea received wide support. It is expected that the issue of meeting day will be considered and resolved at that meeting.

Accordingly, **the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 4 February 2006 in the Senior Center immediately following the Democratic Caucus in the afternoon. The caucus begins at 1 pm, but plan to be there early to register.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Announcements

There will be an opportunity to meet and hear from a number of Democratic candidates for elected office in Massachusetts on Sunday 22 January from 2-4 pm at the Weston Public Library.

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2006 dues of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury. Dues were expected on or about 1 January.

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, 14 January 2006.