

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2006**

The meeting was convened by Chairperson Beverly Guild at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Seventeen persons (15 members) were in attendance, the names of whom are listed on the attached sign-in sheet. The non-members were Herbert Chasan of Framingham and Claire Mihaly of Sudbury. In addition, three candidates for public office were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 4 February, which had been vetted by email, were approved without change. Paper copies of the minutes were distributed at the start of today's meeting.

Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported a current balance of \$2035

The meeting began with remarks by three candidates for public office:

> Robert Stein (978-440-8485), candidate for Sudbury Selectman, opposing Larry O'Brian, emphasized the fiscal importance to Sudbury of retaining the elderly, who pay full taxes but place no financial demands on schools. He promised to work toward a change in real estate levies such that elderly families without school age children would be obliged to pay 0.75 of assessment. In addition, he wants to expand the opportunities for the elderly to perform town work for a reduction in real estate tax of ca. \$500-1000.

> Gerald Leone, candidate for Middlesex District Attorney, believes that his qualifications, experience, and passion for public safety would enable him to fulfill the duties of office. Under questioning, he stated that it is clear that most crimes arise from poverty and social circumstances. Accordingly, social services need to be more closely linked with law enforcement and prosecution, and there is a great need for public/private partnerships to fund youth programs aimed at directing youth in constructive directions. He described his professional and educational backgrounds in considerable detail.

> Thomas Conroy of Wayland, candidate for state Representative, opposing incumbent Susan Pope, expressed a need for support and introductions in Sudbury, perhaps in part by way of fund raising coffees. There was positive response from the meeting to this proposal for coffee meetings. Mr. Conroy emphasized his support for single payer health insurance.

The meeting next heard from Herbert Chasan from Democrats for America, who discussed an operational strategy, "Swing the Vote", to enable the Democrats to regain control of Congress in 2006. Basically, this would involve close support for Democratic candidates in House and Senate races for which the seats of the incumbent Republicans are insecure. In short, let us try to beat those who can be beaten, and largely ignore the secure races. He can supply kits that would allow us to place telephone calls to people in the selected districts around the country in order to persuade the listener to vote for the Democratic candidate. Contact him at 508-380-1196.

Susan Thel reported for the Peace Subcommittee regarding the planned demonstration on the morning of Sunday, 19 March, at the Boston Convention Center in collaboration with veterans' peace groups. This demonstration is to witness the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq in the presence or proximity of a number of politicians who will celebrate a Saint Patrick's Day breakfast at the Convention Center. She also distributed an announcement of the demonstration. She asked permission for the SDTC contingent to display the SDTC banner at the event and was unanimously afforded that request.

Carl Offner and Tom Hollocher described briefly their contacts with Democratic Town Committees of Framingham and Weston, respectively, to encourage these Committees to initiate their own peace vigils. There seem to be no definite commitments to that end at present.

Maxine Yarbrough reported on the overflowing rally for Deval Patrick in Boston on 11 March and the push to expand the number of add-on delegates committed to Patrick for the Mass.

Convention. Regarding Patrick's nomination papers, a house-to-house drive for signatures is planned to begin on Saturday, 18 March, and continue every subsequent Saturday. This is to be done en masse, town by town. Those who cannot join this effort ought to collect signatures as their schedules permit around Sudbury. Remember, all Sudbury delegates committed to Patrick are expected to work in his behalf and collect nomination signatures. Maxine also hoped that coffees and house parties could be organized to raise funds for Patrick prior to the convention.

Henry Noer suggested that we support Geitz over Noonan, who is Chair of the Sudbury Republican Town Committee, for the Board of Health opening. Both are doctors. He also moved, had seconded, and received unanimous approval for the text of a letter to be sent to U. S. Senator Russell Feingold in support of his efforts to censure President Bush, copies to be sent to our Senators Kennedy and Kerry.

Helga Andrews moved that the amount of \$500 be sent to the campaign fund of Thomas Conroy to support his effort to unseat Rep. Susan Pope. This was seconded and approved unanimously. Apropos of fund raising, Henry Noer proposed the idea of holding a fund raising event on Rt. 20 after the Convention.

**The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Thursday 20 April 2006, in the First Parish of Sudbury.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

#### **Announcements**

Do not forget the honors breakfast to be sponsored by 3<sup>rd</sup> MAD on Saturday 25 March. Make reservations in advance and a \$30 contribution is requested.

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, 19 March 2006.