

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2006

The meeting was convened by Vice-chairman Carmine Gentile at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Thirteen persons were in attendance, comprising 10 members, one associate member, and Massachusetts Democratic Party members, Kate Donaghue and James McGowan. The list of those in attendance is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 14 March, which had been vetted by email, were approved without change. Paper copies of the minutes were distributed at the start of today's meeting.

The meeting began with remarks by Donaghue and McGowan on a variety of issues:

> Add-on delegates to the Nominating Convention in June. The minority category was largely filled and the youth category was completely filled with some 400 applications for the 100 seats available. The disabled category, however, was unfilled. Sudbury could increase its delegate strength in future by applying for additional slots for the disabled.

> Convention volunteers. Volunteers are needed at the Convention to serve as guides, messengers, lap-top operators, etc., and a form was distributed at the meeting to enable volunteers to indicate their preferences for jobs and times. A copy of this form is entered in the permanent record. Those willing and able to volunteer should fill out the form and forward it as per instructions on the form. Contact Tom Hollocher for copies of the form.

> Training of delegates to the Convention. Because of extensive rule and charter changes since the last Gubernatorial Convention four years ago and other technical matters, the Convention will proceed in a very different manner this year. Because of this and to avoid confusion and delays at the Convention, there will be a training session for delegates on Tuesday 9 May, time and place to be announced (check Donaghue's weekly email newsletter). All delegates are urged to attend. Note, however, that the new procedural rules for the Convention will be detailed in the call-to-convention newspaper that will soon be mailed to each delegate.

> New membership requirement. In many Democratic town committees, there are inactive regular members whose continuing membership may prevent the election of new, active members due to the membership cap (the cap is 35 in Sudbury). A proposal to be presented to the Convention would, if approved, require some 20 hours of political work each, in the year before and the one following a nominating convention, of every town committee member as a condition for continued membership. This proposal is considered controversial and ought to be considered carefully. Nevertheless, town committees do need some mechanism, formal or informal, to retire or energize regular members who never attend meetings or otherwise fail to participate in committee work.

The following slate of officers of the SDTC was placed in nomination for re-election: Beverly Guild, Chair; Carmine Gentile, Vice-chair; Thomas Hollocher, Secretary; Helga Andrews, Treasurer; Maurice Fitzgerald, Affirmative Action and Outreach Officer; and Henry Noer, Program Chair. All nominees in attendance agreed to serve another term, although Hollocher indicated a willingness to step aside if anyone aspired to be secretary. The acceptances of Guild and Fitzgerald were received *in absentia*. This slate was seconded and approved unanimously.

Pamela Hollocher was nominated to be advanced from Associate Member to full Member and was approved unanimously.

Plans were discussed for our participation in the 4th of July festivities. There seemed to be general agreement that we shall march in the parade, with Tom Conroy if possible, and have a table for literature, bumper stickers, etc. It is essential, of course, that we staff the table sufficiently. Volunteers should contact Henry Noer. The meeting approved the application fee for us to man a table on Sudbury Day, 17 September. Again, it is essential that people volunteer to help at the table.

Tom Conroy, who is opposing Rep. Susan Pope, would like to walk door-to-door in Sudbury on Saturday 29 April, which, across the country, is designated as a day of political action. Volunteers are needed to accompany Conroy in Sudbury neighborhoods to provide introductions and support.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Tuesday 16 May 2006, in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Announcements

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, 27 April 2006.