

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

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Sixteen persons were in attendance, all members. The list of those in attendance is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 16 May, 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 balance of \$1420.

Recent state Nominating Convention: Delegates to the Convention reported on the proceedings and the annoying problems that detracted from an otherwise useful meeting. These included the great length of time needed for voting and the tabulation of results, the hour or more needed to resolve delegate challenges, the poor quality and high cost of food from in-house vendors, the fact that Charter questions were sent to the floor just as the Convention was breaking up and great confusion prevailed, and the crowded and ultimately foul condition of the toilets. Prior to the meeting, Hank Sorett and Tom Hollocher forwarded separate and private email messages of complaint to the Massachusetts Democratic Party headquarters. After some discussion, the Secretary was charged with preparing a collective letter from the SDTC summarizing the complaints voiced by Sorett and Hollocher and today's discussion, this letter to be vetted by group email.

On the positive side, the delegates were pleased that Deval Patrick handily won the Party endorsement, but expressed worries about the possibly divisive effect of having three Democratic candidates on the primary ballot in September. Patrick could exhaust his war chest in the primary campaign and have little left for the November election, just as happened in 2002 to other Democratic candidates. In this regard, Donald Chauls asked that the SDTC send a letter to Candidate Chris Gabrieli asking him to withdraw from the gubernatorial race. Although this proposal was not treated as a formal motion, there seemed to be broad support for this action. [Although a draft of such a letter was distributed to the Committee by email, substantive opposition was voiced and the question was dropped.]

Primary election: Maxine Yarbrough, head of our Patrick-for-governor group, inquired as to whether the SDTC could spend money in behalf of Patrick's campaign, now that he has received the endorsement of the Convention. None seemed to know the answer for sure, but Henry Noer said that he would attempt to research this question.

Registrar of Voters: The meeting unanimously voted to continue Jeanne Maloney as Registrar of Voters in Sudbury.

Visitor for next meeting: Henry Noer received permission to invite John Boniface, candidate for Secretary of State, to our next meeting on 20 July.

4th of July parade: We were advised by Joe Bausk in behalf of the Parade Committee that politicians participating in the parade are expected, and indeed required by state law, to pay a \$100 participation fee. However, the Parade Committee traditionally charges this fee only to out-of-office candidates and not to incumbent candidates and office holders not in a formal campaign mode. Some questioned whether there was in fact a state law decisive in this matter, and most were troubled by the arbitrary way in which the fee was levied. Bausk agreed to research this matter and let those chiefly responsible for our participation in the parade (Noer, Susan Thel, and Carrie Pollack) know the true state of affairs before the event. Specifically, need Tom Conroy, opposing incumbent Republican Representative Susan Pope, pay the fee, whereas Pope need not?

Thel received agreement to carry signs in the parade expressing antiwar sentiments and to distribute a flyer urging military withdrawal from Iraq. Such a statement had been prepared by Carl

Offner and distributed to the Peace Subcommittee by email prior to today and again by hard copy at tonight's meeting. The wording of this flyer was discussed at some length without agreement on final form. Noer moved that we approve of the distribution of a flyer at the 4th of July parade along the lines of what we have seen on tonight's handout. This received a second and was unanimously approved.

Membership Subcommittee: Tom Hollocher briefly argued the need for a Membership Subcommittee to recruit more workers to the SDTC (see last month's Minutes). Noer, Jerry Glass, Hollocher, Jackie Bausk, and Doris Gannon agreed to serve on such a subcommittee, and Hollocher agreed to serve as its chair. Offner moved that the SDTC form a Membership Subcommittee. This received a second and was approved unanimously. It is hoped that Maurice Fitzgerald, as our Affirmative Action and Outreach officer, will also consent to serve on the committee.

Support of out-of-state candidates for the US House and Senate: We recently received an emailed list of worthy Democratic candidates running for Congress in other states from Claire Schlosser. After a brief discussion of its contents, it was suggested that she and Noer ought to cooperate in drawing up a short list of those congressional candidates most in need of financial or other kinds of support for presentation at the July meeting before the primary elections. Noer agreed to do this.

Database: Noer reported that he acquired the voter's database from the Sudbury Town Clerk and installed it on his computer for use by the Committee. This database contains the names, addresses, and party affiliations of Sudbury residents, but not their telephone numbers. Help is needed to insert the telephone numbers. Maloney agreed to help in this task.

Rally and fund raiser: Noer said that he hopes to organize a Metrowest rally and fundraiser for democratic candidates on 15 October, place and time to be announced.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Thursday 20 July 2006, in the First Parish of Sudbury. There will be no August meeting, and the September meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 12 September.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.

Maxine Yarbrough has scheduled a meeting of Convention delegates and other Patrick supporters at her home at 7 pm on Tuesday 20 June to plan the Patrick campaign in Sudbury. Helen Cray of Sudbury is planning a house party for Patrick at a time and date to be announced.

Tom Larkin's annual picnic will be held on 23 July and there will be a Candidates' Forum on 9 September at the Best Western Motel in Waltham. Consult Kate Donaghue's weekly email Dispatch for details.

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, 18 June 2006.