

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

Vice chairman Carmine Gentile convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Eleven persons were in attendance, comprising ten members and a guest, Edward Loechler, representing Brookline Peace Works. The list of those in attendance is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

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

There was no report from the Treasurer who was absent.

**Reimbursement:** Under a motion by Gentile that was seconded and unanimously approved, reimbursement in the amount of \$206.25, more or less, will be made from existing funds for expenses incurred in connection with our participation in the recent 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

**Presentation by Edward Loechler:** Ed Loechler is associated with Cambridge Peace Works and other activist organizations opposed to the Iraq war specifically and the Bush administration generally. He supported Democratic candidates in the 2000, 2002, and 2004 elections and worked intensively on voter registration and telephone banks. It is his opinion that the Democrats have a chance to win back Congress or at least the House in 2006. The strategy must involve out-of-state support in races in which the Democratic challenger is strongly competitive with the Republican incumbent. As a practical matter, out-of-state support to be effective must come from contiguous states. On the basis of data compiled in the Cook Political Report, Loechler urged that activists in Massachusetts ought to concentrate their aid on the Simmons/Courtney race in Connecticut's 2<sup>nd</sup> House district. In New Hampshire, Swett might defeat incumbent Bass, and this race could use help. Help can be in the form of canvassing, telephoning, contributions, and voter registration. If the Democrats could win back the House, John Conyers would head the Judicial Committee from which Impeachment proceedings could originate.

In response to this information and discussion, a Subcommittee to Support Democratic Congressional Candidates in Other States was formed under a motion that received unanimous approval. Its founding members are Gerry Glass, Carmine Gentile, Henry Noer, and Susan Thel. In addition, the Secretary was asked to forward contact information provided by Loechler to the SDTC by email. This was done on 24 July, the email being in the permanent record.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July parade:** The Sudbury Chamber of Commerce organizes the parade and collects participation fees. The nature of these fees was discussed, inasmuch as they seem capricious and would appear to benefit incumbent politicians. Must all participants pay a fee, or are some exempt? Has the fee schedule been published? Gentile suggested that the discussion continue with Joe Bausk at next meeting.

Because of the presence of an abusive and "out of control" man of unknown identity at the parade, it might be wise in future to engage the police to a greater extent.

**Contribution limits:** Henry Noer provided a chart of annual campaign contribution limits from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance. This very useful document is in the permanent record and available from Noer or through the internet.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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.

Sudbury Day needs volunteers -- Saturday 16 September, 12 noon-5 pm. It will be held at the high school in case of rain.

Democratic Awareness Day is on Saturday 29 July. The SDTC plans to hold signs at the intersection of route 20 and Union Ave. from 1-1:30 or 2 pm, after the antiwar vigil.

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, 26 July 2006.