

## **Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC) Minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2006**

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Seventeen persons were in attendance, comprising ten members and seven guests. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record. The guests were: Roy Gill from Senator Susan Fargo's headquarters; Mary McCarthy from Maynard who attended in the hope of receiving a list from Carl Offner who was absent; and George McQueen, Elizabeth Bishop, Cathy Dill, and Courtney Dill, all of Sudbury, who have an interest in the work of the Committee. Thanks for coming, and we hope you will come again and become involved in our work!

The minutes of the previous meeting of 20 July, which had been vetted by email, were approved subject to correction of two typographical errors cited by Esther Mann. Paper copies of the minutes were distributed at the start of today's meeting.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1420 more or less with approximately \$100 in bills unpaid.

**Christmas party:** Jeanne Maloney will work with Winifred Fitzgerald to secure the Hosmer House for the venue again this year. The usage fee is now \$150.

**Before the primary election:** Maxine Yarbrough reported needing volunteers for visibility in behalf of Deval Patrick at Town Hall and Fairbanks School on election day (19 September) and at Sudbury Day (17 September), and asked people to sign up and designate times on a circulated sheet.

Henry Noer asked for volunteers for visibility in behalf of all Democratic candidates on Sunday afternoon, 18 September, from 1-3 pm at the intersection of Route 20 and Union Ave. Additional volunteers to staff the SDTC table on Sudbury Day would be much appreciated.

**After the primary election:** Roy Gill, representing Susan Fargo's campaign, discussed ways in which Sudbury and the SDTC could contribute to that campaign. Chiefly mentioned were phone banking, poster visibility, and literature distribution. Gill's contact number is 781-893-3707.

A general discussion involved the question of whether to send financial support to out-of-state Democratic congressional candidates, and if so, to whom. Gerry Glass and Henry Noer finally moved to send \$250 each to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and \$100 each to the campaign committees of Robert Casey of Pennsylvania and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois. This motion was seconded and received unanimous approval.

Henry Noer proposed to organize a political rally on Sunday 15 October in Sudbury, an event that would incur some modest cost. This proposal received wide approval.

**Solicitations for new members:** George Siscoe suggested that a strongly anti-Bush event in Sudbury before the November election would draw a large crowd and attract people to the SDTC. The featured speaker(s) might be a radio commentator or a book author, who might agree to a modest honorarium for services. Siscoe volunteered to explore the matter and begin to develop a plan.

**Peace vigil:** Susan Thel reported that the weekly vigil from 12 noon to 12:30 pm remains reasonably well attended (12-18 people) and will continue. Response by passing motorists continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

**"Civics":** It was generally agreed by those who recently had engaged in phone banking or door-to-door campaigning that the public is ill informed about matters of government. Might this be due to a failure of public schools to teach what in days past was called Civics? What about Sudbury schools? Do they teach things like the structure and operation of government, constitutional principles, major Supreme Court decisions, etc. as a separate course or as threads in other courses? Should Civics be reinstated as a required course? The meeting therefore asked Eileen Glovsky of the

L-S High School Committee and SDTC to report on the state of Civics instruction in Sudbury schools.

Might a SDTC prize awarded to a high school student each year for political service or an appropriate essay stimulate scholastic interest in government?

**The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Wednesday 11 October 2006, in the First Parish of Sudbury.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 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.

The League of Women Voters has scheduled a candidate's debate for 7 pm on 18 October in the Goodnow Library.

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, 21 September 2006.