

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

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Sixteen persons were in attendance, comprising twelve members and four guests. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record. The guests were Robert Savoy in the company of JoAnn Savoy, member; Gary Bean (garymcbean@hotmail.com); Neill Silverman (neills4749@sol.com); and Julia Euling who has no email address. Thanks for coming, and we hope you will continue to have an interest in our work!

Guild declared a moment of celebration and toasted the recent Democratic victories with imaginary glasses of cheer.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 11 October, which had been vetted by email, were approved without modification. Paper copies of the minutes were distributed at the start of today's meeting.

The Treasurer reported that the current balance in our account is \$1770, \$475 of which came in as contributions to support the mass mailing made in early autumn for Democratic Victory '06. Against this there are outstanding bills for use of our meeting hall (\$100) and reimbursements to members for expenses incurred during the campaign. Regarding the reimbursements, the meeting moved and approved payments of \$750 to Maxine Yarbrough and \$40 to Joseph Bausk.

Report on the recently concluded campaign: Maxine Yarbrough and Tom Hollocher summarized the work of the SDTC over a period of almost one year starting with the visit of Deval Patrick to the Goodnow Library in November 2005. A delegation strongly supportive of Patrick was elected at the Democratic Caucus in January of 2006, and this delegation helped Patrick win a majority of votes at the Democratic Convention in June in Worcester. Prior to the primary election, which Patrick won handily, Patrick supporters within the SDTC, led by Maxine, completed a mass mailing of about 900 pieces to all Sudbury Democratic households. After the primary, the work broadened to include visibility groups on weekends, phone banks, and a mass mailing of about 2700 pieces to households of un-enrolled (independent) voters of Sudbury. Regarding phone banks, nine were organized from 7 October through 1 November in Russell's Garden Center (3), Tom Conroy's headquarters (5), and the law offices of Carmine Gentile (1). These banks placed about 1800 calls. About 800 calls were made from individual homes between 4 and 6 November, and on election day, 7 November, 16 volunteers placed about 1300 "get out the vote" calls, chiefly by use of cell phones from 9:30 am through 7:30 pm, from the home of Carl and Susan Offner. A number of members were sited as having had leadership rolls in the above campaign activities: Maxine Yarbrough, Joe and Jackie Bausk, Susan Thel, and Carl Offner on the mass mailings; Hollocher, Offner, and Jeanne Maloney on the phone work; and Maxine and Henry Noer on visibility. Many others, however, contributed time, energy, and money to this work, including at least 29 volunteers outside the SDTC for whom the Secretary has names and contact information. These data have been placed in the permanent record.

Whereas the campaign work focused mainly on the election of Deval Patrick for Governor and Tom Conroy for district Representative, support was also provided for our incumbent Senator Susan Fargo and other Democrats running for contested state office. All those we supported were elected. It should be mentioned that Noer served as a close advisor to Tom Conroy and organized the rally of 5 November on the Town Common, featuring Tom Conroy and Senators Susan Fargo and Pamela Resor.

Hollocher briefly discussed two ideas that might enhance our effectiveness in subsequent election cycles. First, we ought to organize the campaign at the precinct level with a set of five precinct captains in order to make better use of the intimate knowledge that a precinct captain would have of his neighborhood. Second, we sorely need to acquire the email addresses of as many

registered Democratic as possible so that there can be ongoing, facile, and inexpensive contact between the SDTC and these voters. In the present situation, there is a major disconnection between the Committee and our constituents. In the discussion that followed Hollocher's remarks, several ideas were put forth to allow us to acquire email addresses:

- a. Have the Town Clerk hand out a brochure about the Committee and its work whenever a person registers as a Democratic voter. This brochure would also solicit the email address of that person.
- b. Make a mass mailing asking Democratic households to transmit email addresses to us.
- c. Solicit email addresses through a newspaper ad, letter to the editor, or op-ed article.

Membership Committee: Hollocher reported that the membership committee, which had been constituted a few months ago, had not yet met. He hoped to call a meeting sometime after Thanksgiving.

Election of new members: Julia Euling and Gary Bean expressed a keen interest in the SDTC and a desire to join. The Secretary informed them of the membership structure of the Committee, the rights and privileges of the three classes of membership, and the fact that full member status is limited by law to 35 persons. It was moved and approved to accept Julia and Gary as Associate Members with the understanding that they might be considered for regular membership in one year.

Thanks to volunteers: The Secretary reported that letters of thanks to the aforementioned 29 volunteers have been forwarded by email or post.

New Medicaid rule: Gary Bean advised the meeting that under a new Medicare regulation, each child in need of the service must prove its US citizenship. He suggested that he draft a letter to our Congressional delegation to abolish this rule, and the meeting concurred in this idea. The text will be vetted by email.

Holiday party: Guild announced that the annual holiday party will be held in the Hosmer House on Sunday 10 December starting at 6 pm (subsequently changed to 6:30 pm). Contact her regarding food, drink, and supplies. The Secretary was requested to send invitations to all of our election volunteers, as well as to the usual recipients of invitations.

Memorial for Winifred Fitzgerald: Guild suggested that the SDTC make a donation to the Hosmer House in the memory of our dear departed member, Winifred Fitzgerald, who died shortly before this meeting. It was moved by Judy Deutsch and unanimously approved that a \$500 contribution be so made and include a suitable plaque to be displayed in the Hosmer House. Deutsch will construct the wording.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Wednesday 17 January 2007, in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 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 for 2006 were expected on or about 1 January 2006. Similarly, 2007 dues are expected on the first of the new year.

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, 25 November 2006.