

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Twenty seven persons were in attendance, comprising twenty members and seven guests. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record. The guests were Lorraine Herzog (kewten@yahoo.com), John Greeley (johncgreeley@gmail.com), Clark Moeller (clarkmoeller@verizon.net), Jane Moeller (janemoeller@verizon.net), Margaret "Peg" Espinola (peggidy@verizon.net), and Karen Libby (kllibby213@aol.com) -- all of Sudbury, and Kate Donaghue, our Massachusetts Committee member. Thanks for coming, and we hope you will continue to have an interest in our work!

The minutes of the previous meeting of 14 November 2006, 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, who was absent, reported through the Chair that the current balance in our account is \$947. Many dues for 2007 remain outstanding, in spite of the fact that they were due on the first of the year. Yearly dues are only \$35, and they are expected to be paid with certainty in January.

Gubernatorial inauguration: Those members who witnessed the inauguration of Deval Patrick or attended the prior festivities described these events and their personal experiences and impressions. All who commented seemed to have been favorably impressed with the events.

SDTC web site and Yahoo group email: Carl Offner moved that "ownership" (administrative control) of the SDTC's web site (www.sudburydems.org) and Yahoo group email (sudburydems@yahoogroups.com) be transferred to the Secretary in behalf of the SDTC in order to assure future continuity and control of these communication devices by the SDTC. Technical custodians (moderators) would be appointed by the Secretary, and "ownership" would transfer with the office. This motion received a second and was adopted by unanimous consent.

In the creation of the web site and group email some years ago, Henry Noer and Jonathan Sclarsic were our chief agents, with consequence that the web site became "owned" and supported financially, in part, by Noer, and the group email became "owned" jointly by Noer and Sclarsic. It is widely held within the Committee that these facilities have not been adequately maintained and developed. Sclarsic has been away at law school for a year and a half, and Noer has been busy with a number of important Democratic causes and projects. It was believed wise, therefore, to transfer control of the facilities to an officer of the Committee, and to broaden the custodianship to allow greater efficiency in updating the group email and modifying the web site.

Registrar of Voters: Because of a newly conceived or applied rule, that prevents a Sudbury Registrar of Voters from simultaneously serving as an officer of a town political committee, Carmine Gentile, our Vice Chair, was recently obliged to resign as one of the two Democratic Registrars of Voters in town. This situation was described by Jeanne Maloney, the other Democratic Registrar of Voters in Sudbury, who advised the meeting to nominate a replacement for Gentile. Gary Bean agreed to place his name in nomination for the office and was supported unanimously by the meeting.

Comments by Kate Donaghue: Kate briefly discussed the impending Sudbury Democratic Caucus (1:30 pm Saturday 3 February) and the Massachusetts Democratic Convention (Saturday 19 May). Caucus rules will be similar to those in effect in previous years, but there will be no 15-minute grace period between beginning the meeting and barring the doors, and the Chair of the Caucus will become an ex officio delegate to the Convention.

The theme and focus of the Convention will be political action with the idea of maintaining the activism, organization and momentum gained during the last election cycle. The Convention will

last only one day and will support training sessions and breakout meetings. The host party will be held that evening and not on the Friday before.

Election of new members: Lorraine Herzog, John Greeley, Clark Moeller, Jane Moeller, Margaret Espinola, and Karen Libby expressed a keen wish to join the SDTC. The Secretary, with the assistance of Donaghue and Guild, informed them of the membership structure of the Committee, the rights and privileges of the three classes of membership, the fact that regular membership is limited by law to 35 persons, and the need to dissolve the Committee at each presidential election and stand individually for re-election prior to the Committee's reconstitution. Following this, it was moved and approved unanimously to accept these six persons as Associate Members with the understanding that they might be considered for regular membership in one year.

What Congress ought now do: Donald Chauls and Susan Offner had recently collaborated in preparing a document arguing for Congress to act on a number of urgently needed programs consistent with progressive Democratic views. This document might be published as an op-ed piece, letters to legislators, or both, after approval of content by the SDTC as a whole. It therefore needs input and vetting by the Committee. Carl Offner moved that a subcommittee be established to this end with Chauls as its Chair. This received a second and unanimous approval. Tom Hollocher volunteered for this subcommittee, with a tentative first meeting scheduled for 24 January at the home of Chauls. Peg Espinola agreed to help out in a lesser capacity, perhaps to do some editorial work on the product. She is occupied nearly every evening of the week.

Letter to Senator John Kerry: Chauls moved that the SDTC send a letter to Sen. Kerry asking him not to run again for President. This motion failed to receive a second and so failed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Thursday 15 February 2007 in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Announcements

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2007 dues of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury. Dues were expected on or about 1 January 2007.

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.

March is Democratic Action month. In Massachusetts, 10 forums are planned on grass roots organizing, one forum in each congressional district. Consult Donaghue's Dispatch for times and places.

The Middlesex and Worcester District will sponsor a brunch on 25 March to honor Democratic workers. Cost is \$25 per person. Consult Donaghue's Dispatch for further information.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 21 January 2007.