

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 25 April 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Twenty-two persons were in attendance, comprising eighteen members and associate members and four guests. The guests were Simon Ho of Sudbury, Larry Lopez of the campaign of Niki Tsongas for US representative, Fifth District, David O'Brien, candidate for US representative, Fifth District, and Kate Donaghue, State Democratic Committee member. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

The minutes, which had been vetted by email and distributed at the beginning of the meeting, were approved as submitted.

Reports: The Treasurer reported that the current balance of the SDTC is \$1250.76.

Kate Donaghue reported on the impending Democratic State Convention and recent actions of the Massachusetts Democratic Committee. John Walsh, former campaign manager for Deval Patrick, now replaces Phil Johnston as Chair of the state party. In a new initiative, delegates to the State Convention will be allowed to bring one guest at no additional cost. This seemed appropriate to the Convention's theme of grass-roots activism. Technical changes are being considered for the Massachusetts Democratic Charter. One is to require a written report to convention delegates on the activities of the State Party in the previous year. Another involves adverse consequences for the support by a Democratic candidate of an opponent of a Democratic nominee. The exact wording of the amendments will appear in the Delegate Guide 2007.

Carl Offner and Donaghue reported that a campaign committee to support Jamie Eldridge is forming in Sudbury, as well as in a number of other towns in the Fifth District. The first meeting in Sudbury will be at 7 pm, 26 April, in the home of Maxine Yarbrough. The first door-to-door canvas is scheduled for 1-3 pm, 28 April.

Larry Lopez and John Greeley spoke in behalf of Niki Tsongas' candidacy to replace Marty Meehan in the Fifth District. Greeley is the team captain in Sudbury.

Joe Bausk briefly reported on his recent trip to New Orleans and places in Mississippi, during which he and associates worked to renovate and rebuild damaged homes. He was impressed by how little has been done to assist the plight of the common man in storm damaged areas and how slowly insurance and other moneys are passing into their hands.

Henry Noer reported on a recent telephone conversation he had with James Roosevelt, who is legal counsel for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Noer represented Roosevelt as saying that the SDTC may not affiliate or join with Mass-Care, as had been suggested we do by Judy Deutsch two months ago. Roosevelt's opinion would seem to conflict with the findings of our Carmine Gentile, lawyer, who found no impediment to affiliation. (See the minutes of our February and March meetings for background.) In view of this difference of opinion, the Secretary suggested that Noer and/or Gentile get a legal opinion from Roosevelt in writing on this matter. It is uncertain how to proceed at the moment.

Susan Thel reported that the Saturday peace vigils are still attracting 15-25 persons and will continue.

John Greeley reported that, because there has been no response from the L-S High School to the idea of an honors award from the SDTC, the matter must be dropped for this year. He suggested that an award might be more acceptable if it were given as a named award rather than as an award from a political committee for political activity or service.

The subcommittee to support Rep. Tom Conroy reported that Conroy has discouraged the writing of letters of support to the editors of local papers for the time being. Noer, however, suggested that this understanding overstates Conroy's actual position. In any case, the subcommittee remains committed to Conroy's support and will remain engaged and in contact.

Carl Offner reported that the group to research the concept of taxation has yet to organize and appealed for volunteers. George Siscoe and Tom Hollocher agreed to work on this, but Hollocher felt that he might not have much time to devote to the issue during summer 2007.

Guest candidate: David O'Brian took the floor and gave information on his background and professional activities in Massachusetts. He admitted that his campaign is just beginning that that he was not yet up to speed on a number of the major issues. Although he opposes the continuing military occupation of Iraq, he seemed to say that the US should, nevertheless, guide the political destiny of that nation. Campaign material will be forthcoming later. He was scheduled to visit our meeting in May, not April. (Mr. O'Brian dropped out of the race a few days after his visit with us.)

Support of the Fifth District race: Beverly Guild suggested that the SDTC ought to cosponsor a candidates' debate with Hudson and perhaps other towns during the week of 18 June. She moved and had approved unanimously that we will be a cosponsor and appropriate \$25, more or less, to cover one-half of rental of a hall. She also moved and had approved unanimously that we will cosponsor a candidates' debate with Wayland sometime in May. Guild also reminded the meeting that the Third MAD annual breakfast meeting, at which our Maxine Yarbrough will be honored, is scheduled for Saturday 28 April. She moved and had approved unanimously that the Committee sponsor a table at a maximum cost of \$180 (6 places x \$30 per place), the money to be spent, if needed, to support those in attendance from Sudbury.

SDTC website: Eric Shienbrood indicated that there were some expenses associated with registration of the domain name and with the host server. He will submit these to the Treasurer for reimbursement. He was asked to establish a link between our website and websites of candidates for the Fifth District congressional race.

The 4th of July parade and Sudbury Day: Motions to participate in these two annual events were approved unanimously.

The Vermont impeachment resolution: Donald Chauls read the impeachment resolution introduced recently into the Vermont House of Representatives. Irrespective of whether it succeeds or fails in the Vermont legislature, the Secretary was instructed, by unanimous agreement, to forward that resolution to our two state senators and our state representative with the request that they draft and introduce similar resolutions into the Massachusetts legislature.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Thursday 24 May 2007 in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Announcements

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2007 contribution of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury.

Please 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, 28 April 2007.