

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Twenty-one persons were in attendance, comprising nineteen members and associate members and two guests, Bob Savoy and Simon Ho. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 24 May, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as corrected. The word "care" on line 8 of the printed copy should read "card".

Future meeting dates: Dates were settled for the next five meetings. Wednesday 18 July, Thursday 16 August, Tuesday 18 September, Wednesday 17 October, and Thursday 15 November. Put these dates on your calendars.

Reports: The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the SDTC's account is \$1126, the same as for last month.

The 4th of July parade subcommittee described plans to date and discussion centered particularly on the wording of the flyer to be distributed along the march. This flyer will cite a number of Democratic issues and principles, but it was not complete. The meeting agreed that the handout should be vetted through email to the SDTC. It was also moved and approved unanimously to appropriate up to \$325 to print the flyer.

The subcommittee to support Rep. Tom Conroy, represented chiefly by John Greeley, reported that Conroy is well aware of the importance to attend local events and meet his constituents and is working on the matter. He does plan to send out an occasional newsletter to all in his district, but limited staff necessarily limits this mode of communication. He will attend Sudbury Day. Judy Deutsch, who was the only person to attend Conroy's June office hours in Sudbury, summarized the 45-minute meeting with him on health care and other issues. He indicated that it will be necessary to raise \$50,000 to run for re-election. She also had attended the Lowell forum and was favorably impressed with his arguments and presentation, and felt that he received the most applause. He and others plan soon to introduce a bill in the legislature to allow town and city union employees to vote to secure their health insurance by way of the Massachusetts government health system (GSI). This is expected to produce savings on insurance premiums. Tom Hollocher remarked on a thoughtful and detailed email message from Conroy on the issue of closing business loopholes. Conroy has spent much time recently in the legislature exactly on this highly technical matter.

Comments: Opinion was solicited from those who had attended two recent debates by the Democratic candidates for Congress -- the debate on health care in Hudson and the one on labor and unions in Lowell, 2 and 3 June, respectively. Carl Offner was emphatic that Eldridge dominated the debate in Lowell, and Tom Hollocher was of the same opinion regarding Eldridge in Hudson. There were others who believe the Eldridge's advocacy of single payer universal health insurance is impractical and quixotic. On the other hand, those candidates who advocated some kind of shared government-private health delivery system were unable to say just how it would work and how it would save money.

Judy Deutsch mentioned that John Odgren, the L-SHS murderer now 16 years of age, might be tried as an adult for murder in the first degree. If one objects to this situation, voice displeasure to the Governor, the Attorney General, or Prosecutor Gerry Lenone. Henry Sorett believed that a trial based on adult first degree murder is highly unlikely and that age and disability will be taken into account.

Membership: Simon Ho was introduced and expressed an interest in joining the SDTC as an Associate Member. He had worked for John Thomas when he ran for the legislature two years

ago and has a master degree in business administration. He was unanimously approved for Associate Membership

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Wednesday 18 July 2007 in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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, 20 June 2007.