

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 18 July 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Fifteen persons were in attendance, comprising twelve members and associate members and three guests, Bob Savoy, Barberie (Bunny) van Valey and Representative Tom Conroy. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 19 June, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the SDTC's account is \$665.

Membership: Bunny van Valey was introduced and expressed an interest in joining the SDTC as an Associate Member. She presented a brief summary of her participation in political activities over the years and of her view that our national government is in urgent need of a progressive agenda. She was unanimously approved for Associate Membership.

Discussion: The greater part of the meeting was devoted to discussion of two topics: 4th of July parade -- In the recent parade, SDTC members were divided among the SDTC contingent and the contingents of the several candidates for US representative from the 5th district. This spread the participants too thinly, and a greater turnout would have been welcome. Nevertheless, some 750 fliers supporting Democratic principles were distributed, and the SDTC seemed to be received with applause and good will. It was suggested that next year we ought to enter a car or float to transport those wishing to participate but unable to march over the parade route.

Legislative accomplishments of our new Representative, Tom Conroy – Conroy summarized this work in the legislature as of June 2007, and a written summary of these remarks was distributed (a copy is placed in the permanent record with these minutes). A wide-ranging discussion followed. Most, if not all, agreed that he is making progress, gaining influence, and supporting important issues relating to taxes, state support for district towns, education, environment, etc. There was also a perception among some that somehow, this message of good work is not getting across to the public, notwithstanding town office days and newspaper publication of papers on positions and legislative work. The questions of publicity and name recognition were discussed widely. One suggestion was to focus on publicizing only a few core things, particularly legislation that eases the tax burden or other urgent problems in district towns, and avoid being encyclopedic. Too many details might confuse. In regard to publicity, it was pointed out that engaged citizens of Wayland put out a weekly Enews letter, and that the SDTC or some other group might consider doing the same in Sudbury.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Thursday 16 August 2007 in the First Parish of Sudbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.

There are a number of political picnics, meet-&-greet events, and fund-raisers, involving candidates running for Congressman Meehan's seat, between today and our August meeting. See the Enews from state Democratic headquarters or Kate Donaghue's DDemsDispatch for details.

Beverly Guild announced that one of our members of very long standing, John Walsh, recently passed away.

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, 4 August 2007.