

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Fourteen members and associate members were in attendance. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 18 September, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: The Secretary read the Treasurer's written report. The current balance is \$535. During 2007, 28 members and associate members (now corrected to 30) plus two friends of the Committee made voluntary contributions of \$35 or more. Money is short and we have appreciable expenses to cover through the end of the year. The Treasurer urges all those who have not made their yearly contribution to do so at their early convenience.

Discussion: The Chair and others emphasized the importance of sending out invitations to friends and colleagues to attend the fund raiser organized for 8 November in behalf of Tom Conroy.

There was some discussion of the recent election of Niki Tsongas to Congress, in particular, why James Ogonowski did as well as he did against Tsongas. He actually took several good-sized towns. Opinions varied. Among those voiced were: dissatisfaction with the Massachusetts Democratic Party and legislature; prejudice against women in office; and the weakness of Tsongas as a candidate with no record of political office.

Donald Chauls suggested that we invite Congresswoman Tsongas to visit Sudbury sometime during the next year to discuss national political issues. The venue might be one of our committee meetings or a public forum. It was felt that such an invitation, although of merit, ought to be delayed a few weeks to allow her to become established in Washington.

Motions: Carl Offner moved that the Committee approve a resolution directed to the Governor opposing casino gambling in Massachusetts. After considerable discussion, the motion was carried with thirteen yeas and one nay. The letter containing the resolution was prepared by the Secretary on 27 October and forwarded by group email to the Committee. A copy is part of the permanent record.

Henry Noer moved that the Committee approve a letter instruction our US senators to oppose legislation that would grant immunity to telecom and internet companies for activities associated with warrantless surveillance. The motion was carried unanimously, and drafts of the letters were forwarded to the Committee by group email on 27 October. Copies will be part of the permanent record.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm sharp, Thursday 15 November 2007 in the First Parish of Sudbury. Meetings in 2008 are so far scheduled for Tuesday 15 January, Wednesday 13 February, Thursday 13 March, and Tuesday 15 April. Please put these dates on your calendars.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 27 October 2007.