

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2007

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Nine members and associate members were in attendance, plus three guests: Bob Savoy of Sudbury, Alan Frankel of Framingham, and John Dowd. Frankel and Dowd represented a group of activists and investors who plan to buy and operate an AM station in Boston devoted to progressive political talk. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 24 October 2007, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: Helga Andrews, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$335 in account.

Discussion: Jeanne Maloney discussed the recent fund-raiser for Tom Conroy at the home of the Gundersons. Although she was not yet informed as to the amount of money raised, she indicated that Conroy seemed pleased with the event. She asked the Secretary to send a letter of thanks to the Gundersons. The request was expanded to include an invitation to attend the holiday party on 12/8 and to join the SDTC. [This letter was sent by email on 11/18]

Concerning the citizenship award that the SDTC hopes to bestow annually upon a deserving L-SHS senior, Maloney said that she would renew contact with the school after the first of the year.

Attendees were asked to sign up to bring food and drink to the holiday party, and many did so.

Beverly Guild expressed concern about the conduct of Senator Susan Fargo, who represents a portion of Sudbury in the legislature. It seems of late that she has been indifferent toward Sudbury, failing to keep appointments, to attend meetings at which she is routinely expected, and to respond appropriately to communications. She needs to remain in contact with the town, if she expects to carry Sudbury in the next election. Guild said that she would compose a letter or email to Fargo outlining her concerns.

Henry Noer expressed concern over the lack of cooperation afforded Governor Deval Patrick's proposals by the legislature, particularly tax proposals. This indifference and inaction, this view that the legislature can assume executive responsibilities in matters of finance and state planning are serious problems. It is important that the legislature understand that Patrick was elected under a popular mandate to make major changes in what the state undertakes and how its projects are financed. He suggested that we give thought to the problem and consider having a meeting with our representative and senators over this matter in near future.

Presentation by guests: Frankel and Dowd elaborated plans to buy an AM radio station in Boston for the purpose of broadcasting progressive political talk. The project is supported by local Democratic political and business leaders, and would operate for profit. The speakers indicated various ways we might become connected with the project and advance the cause; these ways are outlined in a one-page handout that is part of the permanent record. The project is most urgently looking for investors who could invest at the 6-figure level.

Motions: Don Chauls moved that a letter be sent to US Representative Niki Tongas inviting her to visit us in Sudbury to discuss important issues. The wording was based on drafts prepared by Chauls and Hollocher. The final wording was approved unanimously. [The letter was mailed on 11/19.] Chauls also moved that an inquiry be sent to each of the several Democratic presidential candidates asking for a clear commitment to withdraw from Iraq upon becoming President. The final wording was approved unanimously. [The inquiry was sent out by email on 11/17 and we now await responses. The texts of these two communications are in the permanent record.]

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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. Also remember that contributions for 2008 are expected during January.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 18 November 2007.