

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2008**

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Sixteen members and associate members were in attendance, as well as two guests: Bob Savoy of Sudbury and David Emer, head of the James Eldridge for (Mass.) Senate campaign. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

**Minutes:** The minutes of our meeting of 13 February 2008, 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 \$1220 in account.

**Comments by David Emer:** Emer reported that James Eldridge would be the only democratic candidate running to replace Senator Pamela Resor, who decided to retire. The Republican opponent will be Steven Leve. There soon will be many openings and opportunities for campaign volunteers. He also reminded us of the fund raiser for Eldridge on 1 April in Wayland, with Rep. Tom Conroy as one of the sponsors. The event will be held at 7 pm in the home of Diana Warren, 34 Decatur Lane, Wayland.

**Reports, discussion and actions:**

**Honorees:** On 13 April, the Middlesex and Worcester Democrats plan to hold their annual breakfast at the Hudson Portuguese Club, 13 Port St., 10 am-12 noon. The meeting unanimously nominated Judy Deutsch and Helga Andrews to be recipients of Democracy in Action Awards at the breakfast. Senator John Kerry will be the featured speaker. Members of the SDTC are urged to attend and support our honorees.

**Health care:** Judy Deutsch raised two issues. First, she noted that U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas has not as yet signed on to H.R. 676 (Rep. Conyers), the U.S. National Health Insurance Act, as a sponsor and supporter. She moved that the Secretary prepare a letter to Rep. Tsongas urging her to become a sponsor of the bill, which would establish a single payer, universal system of health care. This motion was approved unanimously. Second, she suggested that the SDTC ought to sponsor a public "conversation" (not a debate) between Tom Conroy and Barbara Roop, perhaps in the Goodnow library. Ms. Roop is an attorney and policy analyst with experience in economic and health care policy issues. The meeting seemed to be in agreement with this idea, with the understanding that Deutsch would undertake to explore the possibility further.

**Membership action:** Bunny (Barberie) van Valey was elected to full membership in the SDTC. The name of Doris Gannon was also advanced for membership, but, because of her absence from the meeting, action had to be postponed.

**Election of officers of the SDTC:** The nominating committee (Maxine Yarbrough and Peg Espinola) submitted a slate of officers for the newly reconstituted SDTC, this slate being identical to the persons previously holding office. The official slate is entered in the permanent record. The nominating committee expressed reservations, however, concerning Henry Noer, nominee for the office of Program Chair. The reservations centered on the failure of Noer over the past year to transfer "ownership" (administrative control) of the former website of the SDTC, sudburydems.org, to the Committee, as stipulated in a motion approved at our meeting of 17 January 2007\*. In addition, Noer used that website to mount notice of an assumedly fictitious organization, Don't Expect Much Society, along with verbiage that many viewed insulting to the good name of the SDTC and Democrats in general. The nominating committee and others appealed to Noer to take down the offensive webpage and abide by the action of 17 January 2007. He agreed to take down the webpage (and in fact has done so as of this date), but did not clearly agree to transfer sudburydems.org to the SDTC. At least he has not made this transfer to date. Noer's concession was sufficient to allay doubts, and he, as well as all the others on the slate of officers, was elected unanimously.

Therefore, the new officers are: Beverly Guild, Chair; Carmine Gentile, Vice Chair; Thomas Hollocher, Secretary; Helga Andrews, Treasurer; Maurice Fitzgerald, Affirmative Action & Outreach; Henry Noer, Program Chair. After the election, Hollocher indicated that he would like to be replaced as Secretary within a year to two, inasmuch as he has served in that office since late 2002.

**Voter Activation Network:** Carl Offner discussed the utility of a company specializing in organizing election and voter data, Voter Activation Network. This company supplies and supports data banks for Democrats and other progressive organizations to use during election campaigns and is funded by the Democratic National Committee and the CIA-AFL union. State Democratic Committees in 47 states subscribe to this service, but Massachusetts is not one of them. Why not? He said that he would look into this further and see if our state committee might also subscribe.

**Peace subcommittee:** We were reminded of the special peace vigil on 19 March, 7:30-8:30 am, on the Sudbury Common to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

**Reminder:** The Third Middlesex Area Democrats plan to hold their annual honors breakfast on Saturday 26 April from 9-11 am at the Best Western in Waltham. The theme this year is, "Think Green", and the intention is to honor persons who worked outstandingly in the service of conservation, ecology, and against global warming. We nominated Bruce Langmuir to attend the breakfast and receive recognition for his vigorous efforts to raise public awareness about the issue of global warming. He has informed the Secretary that he is sufficiently recovered from a recent illness to attend. Please support Bruce by attending.

**The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Tuesday 15 April 2008 in the First Parish of Sudbury. Subsequent meetings in 2008 are scheduled for Wednesday 14 May, Thursday 19 June, Tuesday 15 July, Wednesday 13 August, Thursday 18 September, Tuesday 14 October, and Wednesday 12 November. Please put these dates on your calendars.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

### **Announcements**

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2008 contribution of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 20 March 2008.

\* "... moved that "ownership" (administrative control) of the SDTC's web site ([www.sudburydems.org](http://www.sudburydems.org)) and Yahoo group email ([sudburydems@yahoo.com](mailto:sudburydems@yahoo.com)) be transferred to the Secretary in behalf of the SDTC in order to assure future continuity and control of these communication devices by the SDTC. Technical custodians (moderators) would be appointed by the Secretary, and "ownership" would transfer with the office." Wording from the minutes of 17 January 2007.