

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2008

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Eleven members were in attendance, as well as one former member, Doris Gannon of Sudbury. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 13 March 2008, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved subject to the following addition requested by Henry Noer and approved by a vote of 8 to 3: "Noer argued that the website crisis could have been avoided had he been contacted before the January 2007 meeting to make changes in the existing website". Insert in the first paragraph under "Election of officers of the SDTC".

Finances: There was no report in absence of the Treasurer.

Reports, discussion and actions:

Peace subcommittee: Susan Thel questioned whether the Saturday noon peace vigil ought to continue in view of the relatively small number of people it now attracts (8-15) and the length of time it has been practiced (since November 2005). Most supported its continuation on grounds that the vigil serves as an abiding witness to a destructive federal policy.

Health care: Judy Deutsch raised two issues. First, she distributed a draft of a letter addressed to Rep. Tom Conroy, urging him to support two state senate bills currently under consideration: S. 703, "An Act to Establish the Massachusetts Health Care Trust", which is viewed as Massachusetts' single-payer universal health care bill, and S.2526, which calls for uniform billing forms and practices across our present state medical insurance system. Second, she suggested that we prepare a town meeting resolution in support of a single-payer system. On the first point, the meeting decided not to send the letter, inasmuch as Conroy is already well aware of our support for a national or state single-payer system. On the second point, there was general agreement.

Membership action: Doris Gannon was unanimously elected to full membership in the SDTC.

Registrars of voters: Jeanne Maloney and Gary Bean, Sudbury's two Democratic registrars, explained that the new town clerk, Rosemary Harvell, apparently intends to enforce state conflict of interest laws in ways that might restrict the political activities of the registrars. Previously, the application of these laws in Sudbury was rather relaxed and everyone concerned was trusted to act responsibly. According to law, the clerk has considerable discretion in the application of conflict of interest laws and has the power to require restrictions on political activities of registrars and poll workers in excess of those nominally stipulated in law. Maloney and Bean would like to know whether there are restrictions to the prerogatives of the clerk and whether there are political activities allowed to registrars that are protected against mandates of town clerks. As the result of considerable discussion, it was decided unanimously that the SDTC should send a letter of inquiry in this matter to James Roosevelt who is Counsel for the Massachusetts State Democratic Committee. [As of 16 April, the Secretary forwarded a draft of such a letter to Maloney for additions and corrections.]

Primary elections: Carl Offner proposed that we publicize who are the various Democratic candidates for state and federal office in the impending primary elections, where their various districts lie, and why we support them. This could be done through letters to the editor of local papers, a mailing, etc. The meeting seemed to agree with this proposal, but agreed that this action ought to occur after the deadlines for candidate signatures in early May.

4th of July: A motion was made and approved unanimously to participate once again this year in Sudbury's 4th of July celebration and parade.

Voter Activation Network: Carl Offner reported that the state party chooses not to use this data managing service and software.

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 Wednesday 14 May 2008 in the First Parish of Sudbury. Subsequent meetings in 2008 are scheduled for 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 8:45 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, 21 April 2008.