

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2008

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Ten members were in attendance, as well as one guest: Kate Donaghue, Massachusetts Democratic State Committee member. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 15 April 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 \$1205 in account.

Comments by Kate Donaghue: There is interest in using blogging as a means to disseminate news about substantive actions in our State House, and mention was made in this regard of a blogger's conference. Governor Deval Patrick provides a daily update on events in the executive branch, available via the internet. She also reported on training opportunities available to state convention delegates, particularly to first time delegates, and handed out information about the convention and its procedures. Credentials and the Call to Convention brochure will be mailed soon.

Reports, discussion and actions:

Endorsement: It was moved and unanimously agreed that the SDTC endorses Tom Conroy, incumbent state representative for Sudbury, Lincoln, and Concord, who is running for re-election.

Support: It was moved and unanimously agreed to contribute \$250 to the Committee to Elect Tom Conroy in support of Conroy's candidacy.

Letter: The meeting strongly supported a plan to forward a letter to Sudbury Democrats to introduce the various Democratic candidates for state and national office and to declare endorsements where possible, said letter to be deferred until after our meeting on 19 June. We will not know, for example, until early June whether Ed O'Reilly realized 15% of the state convention vote and therefore can be a candidate for the US Senate opposing John Kerry.

Previous letter to US Rep. Niki Tsongas: Tom Hollocher informed the meeting of the response received from Tsongas' office concerning our recent appeal that she sign onto H.R. 676, the single payer universal health care bill. The response was a form letter that alludes to H.R. 676 but makes no commitment to endorse the bill. Indeed, because she clearly thinks highly of the new mandatory health insurance plan in effect in Massachusetts and believes that a universal national health care plan must include participation of the insurance industry, it can be inferred that she will not support H.R. 676. Much of her letter of response was read to the meeting and it is made a part of the permanent record. Hollocher made contact with Pavel Payano of Tsongas' Lowell office and complained about our receipt of a political form letter that was essentially unresponsive to our letter. He has taken the matter under advisement and hopes to be able to supply a more relevant response in near future.

Senator Specter and football: Henry Noer briefly recapitulated the involvement of US Senator Arlen Specter in the alleged impropriety of the Patriots football club. It seems that Specter would make a mountain out of a molehill, action unworthy of a Senator in view of the truly momentous issues facing the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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

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, 22 May 2008.