

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2008

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Fourteen members were in attendance, as well as six guests: Kate Donaghue, Massachusetts Democratic State Committee member; Emma Perlmutter, Field Director for the reelection campaign of Massachusetts Representative Tom Conroy; Cheri Rolfes, Regional Field Director for the reelection campaign of Senator John Kerry; Tom Walsh, candidate for the Governor's Council, 3rd District; Brendan Jarboe, Field Director for the campaign of Massachusetts Representative James Eldridge for the Massachusetts Senate; and Bob Savoy of Sudbury. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Contact information: Perlmutter, emma@tomconroy.org; Rolfes, crolfes@johnkerry.com; Walsh, tlwalsh2006@yahoo.com; Jarboe, brendan.jarboe@gmail.com.

Minutes: The minutes of our meeting of 14 May 2008, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: The Treasurer reported that our account balance is now \$905.

Guests and Candidates:

Tom Walsh attended the meeting to obtain signatures on nomination papers and to introduce himself. He is a life-long Democrat who has often worked for the Party and candidates and who has served in the Marine Corps, as a fireman, and a union leader. He supports women's choice, marriage equality and other issues of social and economic justice.

Emma Perlmutter announced that the next date for door-to-door canvassing is 12 July and that participants ought to assemble at about 1:30 pm in the office at 70 Boston Post Road. She also mentioned that the campaign needs financial support and letters of support in local newspapers. In subsequent discussion involving Judy Deutsch, Carl Offner, Tom Hollocher, etc., the remarkable contributions of Conroy in his first term were elucidated. He was the only freshman legislator to be named to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. From this position and with his wide experience in financial matters, he has made contributions to important pieces of legislation: The Life Sciences bill (particularly the equity concept therein); the long term infrastructure renewal bill; transportation and housing bills; renewable energy incentives and energy conservation bills; closing of corporate tax loopholes; CORI reform; National Popular Vote bill (designed to set aside the Electoral College); the coastal ocean resources and uses bill; defeat of the three-casino proposal. In short, Conroy has influenced nearly every major measure taken up by the legislature over the past two years. Carl Offner suggested that each member of the SDTC ought to sponsor a meet and greet meeting in his home with neighbors in behalf of Conroy

Cheri Rolfes presented the argument for the reelection of John Kerry and received with grace certain opinion that Mr. Kerry has failed in recent years to meet expectations as a vigorous champion of progressive causes and a leader in the Senate.

Brendan Farboe and Kate Donaghue present the case for support of Jamie Eldridge and described upcoming campaign events, such as the campaign kickoff on the evening of 21 June at the Portuguese Club after canvassing in the afternoon. Phone banks and weekend canvassing are also planned. Eldridge's record as a state representative proves him to be a progressive Democrat serving the interests of social and economic justice, and he is not beholden to moneyed or business interests in his legislative work.

Motions: It was moved and unanimously approved to endorse Jamie Eldridge for the Massachusetts Senate, and it was subsequently moved and unanimously approved to contribute \$250 to his campaign out of account. [An identical amount was forwarded to the campaign of Tom Conroy in May.]

Resolution: Carl Offner proposed that the SDTC promptly send to our US senators and representative a resolution opposing further funding for the Iraq War. The meeting unanimously approved the wording of Offner, and the resolution was transmitted by email to the relevant offices on the evening of 19 June. [Both houses of Congress approved further massive war funding by very substantial margins.]

General Discussion: Dean Yarbrough discussed, with presentation of data, the likely future consequences of our national debt of \$9.4 trillion, vast trade debt, mortgage and energy crises and sinking dollar. It is possible that a great collapse may be developing,, but Congress seems unable to take remedial action.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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

Announcements

The Weston Democratic Town Committee's picnic is scheduled for 25 June from 6-8 pm. See their website for location and other details.

The picnic of the 3rd Middlesex Area Democrats is scheduled for the afternoon of 27 July at the home of Tom Larkin, 246 Carlisle Road, Bedford. tomlarkin@verizon.net.

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, 11 July 2008.