

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2008

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Thirteen members were in attendance, as well as one guest, Simon Ho of Sudbury, who had been an Associate Member last year. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2008, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved.

Finances: The Treasurer reported that the account balance, after payment for rental of the Hosmer House for the holiday party, is \$350. The cost of our campaign letter in behalf of Tom Conroy's candidacy was reported as \$3120. Helga Andrews said that she wished to retire from the office of Treasurer, but did not mention an effective date. In discussion surrounding her announcement, Henry Noer volunteered to assist Helga as needed in the transition.

Subcommittee reports:

Susan Thel, reporting for the Peace subcommittee, urged continuation of the weekly peace vigil, in spite of the promise of President-elect Obama to withdraw from Iraq. The vigil is grassroots pressure on the present and next administration.

General discussion:

Issues: The meeting engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on the questions of how best to influence the Obama administration to adopt our collective views on issues and of what issues should have the highest priority for action.

Don Chauls recommended that we select a single urgent issue and concentrate on it for a while, and then shift to a different issue. For example, ending the War in Iraq could be a first issue. Others argued for an effort on multiple issues simultaneously, partly because some issues are linked and need to be addressed broadly. For example, if ending the War were to be a first issue, it ought to be connected with the economy and with economic fairness. There was also discussion of mechanism or vehicle. What things are most effective – letters to editors, mail to legislators, position papers, meetings, public fora, etc? Chauls recommended using multiple approaches to publicize the issue and not rely on one.

Carl Offner spoke at length on why Obama won. He felt that the burden of war and the promise of hope, more than the economy, were decisive. He emphasized that Obama occasionally will have bad ideas and bad policies, among the good, and that he ought to be criticized for unsound judgments and pressed on issues. Major social and political change requires persistent grassroots action.

The concrete outcome of the discussion of issues was to form an Issues subcommittee consisting of Chauls, Tom Hollocher, Offner, Clark Moeller, and Thel as initial participants.

Attracting new members: We might be able to attract new and young members from lists of volunteers who worked for the recent campaigns of Obama, Conroy, Eldridge, and Fargo. These lists should be available from the candidates or their field directors. It was unclear, however, that anyone, assumed responsibility for obtaining the lists. These volunteers could be invited to our holiday party on 7 December and to our January 2009 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Thursday 15 January 2009, in the First Parish of Sudbury. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Monday 23 February and Tuesday 17 March.

Announcements

The SDTC has acquired a postal mailbox: Mailbox 252, Sudbury MA 01776.

The annual holiday party of the SDTC is scheduled to begin at 7 pm on Sunday 7 December. Members, friends, local politicians, and recent Democratic political volunteers are cordially invited

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. Also, please be reminded that contributions for 2009 are expected in January.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 22 November 2008.