

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2009**

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 guest, Kate Donaghue, State Party Representative. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2008, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

**Finances:** The Treasurer reported that the current account balance is \$688.

**Massachusetts Democratic Convention of 2009:** Kate Donaghue reported that the convention is to focus on the party platform. In this connection, town committees are urged to hold a platform meeting before mid March. Betty Thorner volunteered use of her house for a platform meeting. There are no restrictions on topics for such meetings and could even include federal issues, such as opposition to excessive military spending. The outcomes of the meetings, in the form of suggested platform changes, ought to be reported to the state party. Charter amendments can be introduced at the convention as well as platform changes. The convention is scheduled for 6 June in Springfield at the Massachusetts Mutual Center. The delegate fee of \$75 can be waived in cases of financial hardship. In this connection, the meeting was reminded that the Sudbury Democratic Caucus is scheduled for 1 pm on Saturday 31 January in the Fairbanks senior center and that a notice to that effect appeared in the Sudbury Town Crier of 15 January. At the caucus, ten delegates and three alternates will be elected. A person need not be present to stand in nomination, but precedence will be given to persons actually present.

**Office of Treasurer:** Helga Andrews officially announced her intention to resign as Treasurer. Thereupon, the Chair proposed to form a nominating committee composed of Peg Espinola, who was absent from the meeting, and Maxine Yarbrough, who was also absent but who had indicated a willingness to serve on the nominating committee.

**The Issues Subcommittee and its position papers on the Iraq War:** Don Chauls introduced two position papers for discussion that recommended a rapid and complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. One was a nine-page background paper and the other was a two-page document intended for use as an op-ed piece. Both had been forwarded a few days previous to the SDTC as email attachments. The subsequent discussion was extended and detailed. Henry Noer had a number of questions and suggested changes addressed chiefly to the op-ed piece, most of which had been circulated to the SDTC prior to the meeting by email. This email document is entered in the permanent record with these minutes. In particular, he was critical of the stipulation of a specific time period for withdrawal as short as 3 or 6 months. Eva Jane Fridman believed that religious differences between Sunni and Shi'ah were not "relatively minor". Helga Andrews and Betty Thorner were opposed to SDTC endorsement of the papers on grounds that ending the war quickly is not the administration's first priority. These and other points were raised and finally a set of changes, summarized by Chauls, was agreed to. Carl Offner moved to accept the two papers as submitted but with the noted revisions, and the motion was carried with a vote of 9 to 0. Copies of the revised papers are entered into the permanent record with these minutes.

Chauls moved to appropriate a maximum of \$100 from account for postage and envelopes needed to forward the Iraq papers to sundry state and federal officials. The motion was carried with a vote of 9 to 0. In this regard, the Secretary appealed for clerical assistance in this postal project, to which Thorner volunteered her services.

Chauls also raised the question as to whether the SDTC should organize a presentation or forum on withdrawal from Iraq at a meeting of the Middlesex and Worcester Democrats group. The Chair stated an intention to discuss this possibility with the leader of the group, Sue Kennedy, and report to the Issues Subcommittee.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.**

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

**Announcements**

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

On 14 January or thereabouts, Representative Matthew Patrick introduced a bill for a single-payer universal health care plan for Massachusetts (An Act to Establish the Health Care Trust). Judy Deutsch, who was absent from the meeting due to illness, asked that we, both individually and collectively as the SDTC, urge our Tom Conroy to sign on as a co-sponsor of the bill. The meeting did not consider the matter, but individuals could act on her suggestion.

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2009 contribution of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Helga Andrews, 11 Maple Ave., Sudbury.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 24 January 2009.