

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 12 August 2009

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Fourteen members attended, as well as six guests: Matt Giancola, Field Organizer for Lt. Governor Tim Murray (matt@timmurray.org/617-423-0426); Bob Savoy, Bob Gottberg, and Yong Li of Sudbury; State Committee member Kate Donaghue; and Jonathan Sclarsic, former SDTC member and now a lawyer in Boston. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 30 June, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: The Treasurer, Helga Andrews, was absent and there was no report.

Memorial in behalf of George McQueen: The meeting opened with a discussion of what sort of action by the SDTC would be appropriate as a memorial in honor of our recently deceased member, George McQueen. Suggestions included a small scholarship bestowed on a worthy Lincoln-Sudbury High School student and support of a political internship for a high school student to assist in the campaign of a Democrat for state office. Jeanne Maloney and Bob Gottberg agreed to discuss the matter with George's wife and report back at our next meeting with a recommendation for action. In the case of a scholarship, it is assumed that the rules and requirements of the LSHS will need to be understood and taken into account.

Report by Matt Giancola, Field Organizer for Lt. Governor Tim Murray: Matt said that, at this stage in the 2010 campaign, he is chiefly interested in gathering the names of potential volunteers and participants to march in the Labor Day parade in Marlborough. In response to the question, "What exactly does the Lt. Gov. do?", he said that the Lt. Gov. chairs numerous state committees, and, as added by Kate Donaghue, serves as a route to the ear of the Governor. Judy Deutsch and others reminded Matt that endorsement of a single-payer universal health care system is a plank in the platform of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and they expect the Lt. Gov. to support this sort of universal health care.

Announcements by Jonathan Sclarsic: He brought three things to our attention. First, he was elected in March as Chairman of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts, a position that he hopes will become more important in future. Second, he has changed his residence back to Sudbury where he grew up and attended school. Third, he intends to run in 2010 for the office of local Massachusetts representative, if our present representative, Tom Conroy, vacates the seat in order to run for state treasurer. The meeting welcomed these announcements, and forthwith moved unanimously to reinstate his former membership in the SDTC.

Comments by Kate Donaghue: Kate chiefly commented on recent local forums on health care legislation currently being consideration by Congress and the Obama Administration. She was happy to see that a number of SDTC members attended the forums in Chelmsford and Hudson that Rep. Niki Tsongas had sponsored. She also attended the one in Portsmouth led by President Obama, and reported that she was highly impressed by Mr. Obama's conduct and comments during that forum. The meeting then engaged in considerable discussion concerning the highly discourteous and uncivil opposition voiced at these and other forums on national health care.

Contributions to the state party: It was agreed that members of the SDTC, who wish to make individual contributions to the Massachusetts Democratic Party, should send checks to our Treasurer, Helga Andrews, with clear stipulation that the money is for that purpose. The Treasurer will forward the total amount of such contributions to the state party at some later date.

4th of July parade: The Chair, in behalf of the SDTC, thanked everyone who participated in the 4th of July parade, with special thanks to Don Chauls for having provided the truck central our presentation.

Letter to nearby Democratic town committees regarding state taxation: A letter, composed chiefly by Don Chauls for the Issues Subcommittee, appeals to surrounding Democratic town and city committees to comment on the advisability of a progressive income tax and to work toward revisions in the tax code in cooperation with the SDTC. This letter had been vetted through email by the SDTC and informally approved. It was moved and agreed unanimously to transmit the letter to the targeted committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Thursday 17 September, in the First Parish. Subsequent meeting for 2009 are scheduled for Tuesday 13 October and Wednesday 18 November at the same time and place.

Announcements

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

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

Lt. Gov. Tim Murray is sponsoring a political event on Tuesday 25 August, 5:30-7:30 pm, at Kennedy's Restaurant at 24A Maple Street, Marlborough MA. The suggested contribution is \$25. Contact information: Matt Giancola at 617-423-0426 or kellie@timmurray.org.

On 10 September at 7 pm, the Waltham Democratic Committees and the 3rd Middlesex Area Democrats will sponsor a forum on legalized gambling in Massachusetts at the Government Center Auditorium, 119 School Street, Waltham.

A service in memory of George McQueen will be held at 11 am on Saturday 12 September in the First Parish of Sudbury.

A State Committee meeting is scheduled for 15 September at 7 pm at the Marlborough High School. Consult Google Maps for directions.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 24 August 2009.