

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2010

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Twelve members attended and one guest: Massachusetts Democratic Committee member Susan Kennedy. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 18 November, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved.

Finances: The Treasurer reported through the Chair that the current balance is \$1826, including money contributed, but unspent, for support of the campaign letter for Senate candidate, Rep. Mike Capuano. The Chair suggested that, because the campaign letter cost less than the amount of contributions, contributors could recapture the unexpended portion of their contributions by omitting or diminishing their voluntary dues for 2010. What is required for this undertaking, however, is knowledge of the total amount contributed for the letter and its actual cost. These figures were not available at the meeting, but should be made known by the Treasurer.

Memorial in behalf of George McQueen: Jeanne Maloney reported that she is arranging to have a SDTC scholarship in memory of our late George McQueen awarded to a deserving high school senior at the at the L-SHS graduation on 6 June. An appropriation of \$500 for this purpose was unanimously approved.

Dates for future meetings: The Chair suggested the following meeting dates and the meeting concurred: February 16, March 18, and April 21.

Holiday party at the Hosmer House: A brief discussion of the event showed that most thought it much fun and felt that the managers of the Hosmer House made a greater effort this year to accommodate our needs than in 2008. The attendance of Lt. Gov. Tim Murray was heartily approved.

Resolution concerning Massachusetts data collecting agencies: Tom Hollocher introduced a resolution calling for the Massachusetts legislature to complete a bill that would provide oversight and regulation over state data collection and surveillance agencies with federal affiliation. This resolution had been previously vetted via email by the membership of SDTC, and was drafted in response to the discussion of the issue by Nancy Ryan of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts at our October meeting. It was discussed, amended, and approved unanimously. The full text as amended is presented at the end of these minutes. [The resolution was forwarded to our state representative and senators on 15 January.]

Outreach: Our Outreach officer, Maurice Fitzgerald, pointed out that the SDTC is greatly in need of more minority and young members. To this end, he suggested that we might be able to get the names and addresses of persons newly arrived in Sudbury from the Registrar when they register to vote. We might then invite newly registered Democratic voters to our meetings. The meeting welcomed these ideas and trusted that Fitzgerald would explore their feasibility and put them into effect.

Democratic Caucus in Sudbury: At our previous meeting the date for the Sudbury Democratic Caucus was set as Saturday 13 February 2010, but there seemed to be an ambiguity regarding starting time. This issue was resolved, with the starting time to be 1:00 pm. The Chair was asked to make sure that Caucus details are published in the Town Crier.

The senatorial election: Susan Kennedy and Carl Offner appealed to members to make phone calls for the Coakley campaign between now and the election of 19 January. This means of campaign contact was apparently deemed more important than any other at this late date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

The dates for the next four meetings are February 16, March 18, and April 21, 2010, at 7:15 pm in the First Parish.

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. Contributions for 2010 are expected during January.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 20 November 2009.

A Resolution, to be forwarded to Senators Fargo and Eldridge and Representative Conroy:

Whereas the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and other possible state and local data centers affiliated with federal intelligence centers operate in secret and largely without state regulation and supervision, and

Whereas the bill of Senator Harriette L. Chandler (An Act regarding the Commonwealth Fusion Center and other intelligence data centers; currently Senate Bill #931) is expected in final form to provide an effective remedy for this undesirable situation, and

Whereas a companion bill will need to be introduced into the Massachusetts House at an appropriate time,

The Sudbury Democratic Town Committee, by action at its meeting of 14 January 2010, supports the legislative intention of this Senate bill and recommends that our Senators, Susan Fargo and James Eldridge, continue to sponsor the bill and work for its enactment, and that our Representative, Tom Conroy, should sign on as a sponsor when a companion bill is introduced into the House.