

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2010

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm in the First Parish of Sudbury. Twenty members attended and six guests: Eric Slusher representing the Niki Tsongas for Congress re-election campaign; Lisa Gutch, candidate for Sudbury School Committee; Susan Iuliano, Sudbury resident and supporter of Ms. Gutch; Tom Conroy, district Massachusetts Representative; Bob Savoy and Bernard Bonn, both residents of Sudbury. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 14 January, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved.

Finances: The Treasurer, Helga Andrews, reported that the present balance is \$1297. She also reported that Jane Moeller will assume the duties of treasurer, effective Monday 22 March. The Chair and Committee thanked Andrews for a job well done over many years.

Sudbury campaigns: Lisa Gutch, candidate for Sudbury School Committee, addressed the meeting in support of her candidacy and answered questions. Her professional background is principally in finance and worldwide education. She fully supports the proposed override of the real estate tax in order to benefit schools.

Congressional campaigns: Eric Slusher spoke in support of the re-election of Niki Tsongas to the U.S. House of Representatives, and specifically indicated that very likely she would vote in favor of the health care reform bill presently before Congress. He said that the campaign welcomes volunteers and in particular needs someone to head the campaign in Sudbury.

Caucus report: Carmine Gentile, who presided over the Sudbury Democratic caucus on 13 February in the Senior Center, gave a brief report. Attendance allowed the election of a full complement of ten convention delegates and three alternates, all of whom, with the exception of one alternate, are pledged to the nomination of Deval Patrick for Governor and Tim Murray for Lt. Governor. Our state representative, Tom Conroy, and state senator, Jamie Eldridge, addressed the caucus on recent and current actions of the legislature. In addition, Steve Grossman's daughter-in-law spoke in support of his run for Massachusetts Treasurer.

Reimbursement for training: The meeting voted unanimously to reimburse John Riordan in the amount of \$55 for expenses incurred to attend a day long session on political action presented by the Democratic Campaign Institute of the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

A question of membership: Henry Noer asked the Secretary to forward to the Committee a list of persons elected to SDTC since reconstitution of the Committee on 5 February 2008 on the occasion of the Presidential Primary. It was also suggested that seemingly inactive members ought to be contacted to discover whether they wish to continue or resign membership.

Membership action: Bernard (Bernie) Bonn (bbonn3@gmail.com), a retired lawyer who has had extensive experience in public service law, been a life-long Democrat and long time resident of Sudbury, was elected unanimously to membership.

Leadership breakfasts: The Third Middlesex Area Democrats plan to hold their annual leadership breakfast on 1 May at the Best Western in Waltham (\$35 per person), and the Middlesex and Worcester (M & W) Democrats plan to hold theirs on 11 April at the Portuguese Riverside Club in Hudson (\$25 per person). John Riordan was recognized as our 2010 political leader for purposes of the M & W breakfast, and Carmine Gentile, for purposes of the Third Middlesex breakfast. The meeting then appropriated the amount of \$120 to cover the cost for Riordan, Gentile, and their wives.

Remarks by Representative Tom Conroy: Conroy said that he has no opponent as yet for the 2010 election. The Legislature just passed an anti-bullying bill overwhelmingly. The state faces a major additional financial problem in the health insurance area due to proposed premium increases of 20-40%. The Governor must have the power to curb premium increases and cap medical costs.

Election of officers: The nomination committee, comprised of John Riordan, submitted the following slate of officers to the SDTC: Incumbents Beverly Guild, Carmine Gentile, and Henry Noer to continue as Chair, Vice Chair, and Program Chair, respectively; Secretary, John Riordan; Treasurer, Jane Moeller; Affirmative Action and Outreach Officer, Judy Deutsch. This slate was unanimously approved with an expression of thanks to Tom Hollocher, Helga Andrews, and Maurice Fitzgerald who are retiring from office after many years.

Memorial in behalf of George McQueen: Jeanne Maloney announced that the high school scholarship memorial in behalf of former SDTC member, George McQueen, is on track and will be awarded at graduation.

Campaign reform: In response in part to the recent Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, Donald Chauls distributed a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that aims at election campaign reform. He welcomed comment on the document, which has been placed in the permanent record.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

The date for the next meeting is 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 2010 contribution of \$35 minimum, c/o SDTC, to Jane Moeller, Treasurer, 30 Thoreau Way, Sudbury. Yearly contributions are expected to be made during January.

Mass-Care, the MA campaign for single-payer (to which we belong), will have its annual fund-raiser at the Ryles Cafe, Cambridge, 2-5PM on April 17. Admission is \$35 and Judy Deutsch will be glad to drive those who want to attend.

Michael Moore's video on capitalism is available for viewing. Judy Deutsch asked whether we want to sponsor a Sudbury showing of it and gave the explanatory material to our Program Chair.

Report the removal of any political signs. Public officials do not have the authority to remove such signs.

Thomas Hollocher, Secretary, 22 March 2010.