

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2010

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm at the First Parish Church of Sudbury. Fifteen members were in attendance, as well as the following guests, Suzanne Bump, Candidate for State Auditor, Michael Lake, candidate for State Auditor, Grace Ross, candidate for Governor along with their assorted retinues. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2010, which had been vetted by email and distributed at this evening's meeting, were approved as submitted.

Finances: The Treasurer, Jane Moeller, reported that the Committee's current account balance is \$1279.62

Candidates for Democratic Nomination for State Auditor: Ms. Suzanne Bump discussed her focus on performance auditing, and insights she gained from her service as Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development under Gov. Patrick. She mentioned that she is also an attorney. Ms. Bump responded to a number of questions regarding the State Fusion center, legislative appropriations for the Auditor's Office, and performance auditing of the financial results of state departments and agencies. Her web site can be accessed at www.suzannebump.com.

Mr. Michael Lake next spoke to the committee. Mr. Lake is a former Director of White House Operations during the Clinton Administration. He currently serves as Executive Director of the World Class Cities Partnership at Northeastern University. His focus is directed towards adopting best practices in government by utilizing successful techniques used by other state auditors. Mr. Lake also spoke to pro-active performance auditing. In response to questions regarding specific examples of ideas he would like to implement Mr. Lake discussed the experience of Dade County Florida with school building energy audits and cost-effective ESCO energy service arrangements. Mr. Lake's campaign web site can be accessed at www.electmikelake.com

Niki Tsongas Fundraiser: Beverly Guild mentioned that a meet and greet for incumbent Niki Tsongas, 5th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives, will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Steve and Robin Gunderson, 95 Fox Run, Sudbury. All are invited. Help from SDTC members with appetizers and hors d'oeuvres for this event was requested.

May 23 Patrick-Murray Campaign Rally: Ms. Guild informed the committee about this May 23 campaign event at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. The event is being organized by the Middlesex Worcester Democratic Coalition. SDTC was asked to support the underwriting of the event with a contribution. Mr. Hollocher made a motion, which was seconded, to authorize a contribution of \$100 to the appropriate entity in support of the event. The motion carried.

The Issues Subcommittee: Don Chauls spoke about the SDTC's Issues Subcommittee and his interest in restarting some earlier work by the Subcommittee on a position paper supporting a progressive income tax structure for Massachusetts. A conflict with a suggested date (April 29, 2010) for several members of the Subcommittee was noted. Mr. Chauls stated he would e-mail interested parties with a new date.

MW Dems Candidates Forum for State Treasurer: John Riordan briefed the committee on the request from Sue Kennedy and the MW Dems Coalition that Sudbury act as host for this Senate district-wide candidates forum. There are two candidates for the Democratic nomination, Mr. Steve Grossman (of The Grossman Marketing Group) and Mr. Stephen Murphy, at-large Member of the Boston City Council. The room rental cost for a Sudbury location was expected to be \$50 (Goodnow Library, or Grange Hall). Mr. Noer and Mr. Moeller asked that consideration of any SDTC funding of this expense be postponed until a definite date is established and agreed upon by the candidate's campaigns.

Grace Ross, Candidate for Governor: Ms. Grace Ross attended the meeting and asked if she could address the committee. She discussed some breakdowns of the Brown-Coakley vote in January, the loss of some 300,000 jobs since 2006, and a decline in the standard of living for middle class working families. She emphasized this in contrast with what she termed corporate welfare in the form of state tax grants and subsidies for big business. She was critical of Gov. Patrick's education reforms. Mr. Hollocher urged Ms. Ross to withdraw her candidacy, questioning her earned credentials as a Democratic standard-bearer. Mr. Gentile also noted that her candidacy was at best a long shot and would serve only as a distraction for incumbent Gov. Patrick.

Expanded Gambling and Letter to State Senator Fargo: After a brief discussion, wherein it was noted the longstanding and well known history of SDTC opposition to expanded gambling (casinos and slots), Mr. Gentile motioned that the committee communicate in writing to State Sen. Susan Fargo its opposition and request that the Senator respond to us with her views *prior* to the vote expected in the Senate later this legislative session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tea Party Politics: Mr. Noer, who has been closely following the emerging “Tea Party” movement addressed the committee with some thoughts on what some motivating factors are driving this phenomenon. Mr. Noer had a close up view of the unusual and somewhat fragmented coalition of self-identified Tea Party activists when as an observer he attended their recent rally on Boston Common. Bottom line: a thematic strain embraced by this movement is the rejection of the notion of the common weal. Instead, the movement’s focus is clearly one of “What’s in it for me?”. Mr. Noer recommended that the opposing message for Democrats should be that there is a proper and effective role for government in our society, and we should give voice to the view that rights, privileges and liberties established by our Constitution should be for every American.

Dr. Peter Smulowitz State Senate Campaign: Mr. Riordan noted the May 11 special election for the neighboring Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex State Senate seat vacated by U.S. Senator Scott Brown. Dr. Peter Smulowitz won the Democratic primary and is running against a Brown-protégé from Wrentham, Rep. Richard Ross (R). It was noted that Dr. Smulowitz is a very attractive, progressive Democrat candidate and this would be a terrific opportunity for Massachusetts voters to “inform” the media and pundits that Senator Brown’s election did not signal a sea change in Massachusetts and national politics. Financial support for Dr. Smulowitz was strongly encouraged. His campaign web site is www.petersmulowitz.com

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 7:15 p.m. Meetings were set for Tuesday, June 22, Wednesday, July 14, and Wednesday Sept. 15. If the committee decides to meet in August, then a date of Thursday, August 12 was tentatively assigned.

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, 30 Thoreau Way, Sudbury, MA 01776.

John D. Riordan, Secretary, April 30, 2010.