

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the meeting of 1 September 2010**

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

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 12 August were not available to review.

Finances: The Chair reported that the present balance in account is \$349.62.

Middlesex and Worcester news: Sue Kennedy briefly discussed next year's caucus and the agenda convention. In spite of complaints, the \$75 attendance fee for delegates to the convention will again apply. Tom Hollocher and Carl Offner raised the issue of the seeming lack of connection between decisions taken and positions established at state Democratic conventions and the actions of elected officials. Office holders seem largely to ignore the outcomes of conventions regarding ethics, progressive legislation, and platform principles. Recent examples include strong support for universal single payer health insurance and strong opposition to resort casinos voiced at conventions, but largely ignored by governor and legislators. What power has the state Democratic committee to impose the will and spirit of convention actions on elected officials? For the moment at least, such questions appear to be moot or rhetorical.

Labor Day parade, etc.: Beverly Guild and Tom Hollocher reported that Jamie Eldridge, candidate for re-election to the Massachusetts Senate, and Deval Patrick, candidate for re-election as Governor, will march in the Labor Day parade on 6 September in Marlborough, and they want as many volunteers as possible to join them. Eldridge's campaign is also running regular phone banks and door-to-door visits and has asked for Sudbury volunteers. Carmine Gentile volunteered use of phones in his law office for phone banks. A sign demonstration is scheduled for Saturday 11 September at the intersection of Union Ave. and Route 20. Hollocher and Jeanne Maloney (or Henry Noer) will supply the signs for the various candidates.

Fund raising party on Thursday 23 September: The fundraiser will be at the home of Betty Thorner in behalf of the Patrick-Murray campaign. Guest speaker will be Rep. Tom Conroy. Invitations based on a list distributed by Hollocher at this meeting should be sent out on or before 10 September, followed within a few days by telephone calls. Judy Deutsch volunteered to prepare an invitation for everyone's use. Members were urged to enlist friends, relatives, and close neighbors to attend. A lengthy discussion addressed details of refreshments and the suggested range of campaign contribution.

Ballot questions on the November ballot: Carl Offner reminded the meeting that two questions would, if passed, void the sales tax on alcohol and lower the ordinary sales tax to 3%. A third would repeal Chapter 40B, the unitary permitting process applicable to construction of affordable housing. He believed that the first two questions need to be defeated to avoid a state fiscal crisis during the ongoing recession, and the third one defeated to advance the idea of an egalitarian society. He received wide support in these views from the meeting. Judy Deutsch reminded us that Sudbury's ballot would also include an advisory question concerning change over to a state single payer health care system.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

A date for the next meeting was not determined and will be announced via email in due course.

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 should be made during January.

Thomas Hollocher, 10 September 2010, substituting for John Riordan, Secretary.