

Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC) Minutes of the Meeting of 24 March 2011

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:20 pm at the First Parish Church, Sudbury. Fourteen members attended, as well as several guests, including Concord DTC member Martha Schurpe and Democratic State Committeewoman Sue Kennedy. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 5 February 2011, which had been vetted by e-mail and distributed at the meeting, were discussed. With a minor revision noting a corrected date for the State Convention in June, and so moved, the minutes were adopted as amended.

Finances: Jane Moeller, Treasurer, reported that the current balance in the Committee's bank account is \$1,286.79. All bills have been paid.

Upcoming Meetings : A discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of upcoming meetings. The following dates and locations were announced:

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, First Parish Church, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011, Sudbury Grange Hall, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, June 23, 2011, Sudbury Grange Hall, 7:15 p.m.

Third Middlesex Area Democrats: Ms. Guild brought up the Third MAD annual breakfast on Saturday, May 14 at the Doubletree Guest Hotel & Suites in Waltham. Sudbury has been asked to nominate a distinguished contributor to Democratic efforts in the community. Ms. Katherine "Kitty" Hill was nominated and seconded and was chosen unanimously. Tickets to the event are \$35 and all were encouraged to attend. We would like to have a Sudbury table at this popular Democratic event.

Middlesex & Worcester Democrats: Ms. Guild reminded everyone that the M&W Dems annual breakfast is coming up shortly, on Sunday April 10 at the Hudson Portuguese Club. All were encouraged to attend this important fundraising breakfast. Tickets are \$25. As with the Third MAD breakfast, Sudbury is asked to nominate an outstanding Democrat who has made significant contributions. Robin Gunderson was nominated and seconded, and was chosen unanimously.

Afghanistan War Resolution: John Riordan placed on the table a resolution (previously circulated) calling for the prompt withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Afghanistan, as advocated by Cong. James McGovern (D-MA). It is a resolution substantially similar to a resolution already adopted by the Franklin and Norfolk DTCs. Mr. Gentile seconded the motion to adopt. Mss. Maloney and Fridman raised concerns about withdrawal of U.S. humanitarian, social and economic development support for Afghanistan. It was noted that the resolution calls only for the prompt cessation of military conflict and withdrawal of U.S. combat forces. Mr. Moeller expresses his view that we should get out of Afghanistan now. The motion was adopted with one member dissenting.

Libya Resolution: Mr. Tom Hollocher moved a resolution he drafted (previously circulated) condemning the hostile U.S. activities in the current Libyan Conflict and raising substantive points about whether the President had acted with sufficient legal and constitutional authority to authorize the use of U.S. military force in Libya, which is looking more every day like a civil war. A discussion ensued. Ms. Fridman raised points about the identity/credentials of the rebel entities, and the folly of U.S. considering arming these forces. Mr. Offner stated he supports the resolution with reservations. Mr. Riordan brought up the War Powers Act of 1973 and questioned whether the President in fact may have had limited authority, and suggested that taking on a vote at this point might be premature. Mr. Moeller expressed his support for the resolution. The motion to adopt the resolution was put to a vote and on a show of hands it passed by a tally of 9 for, 5 against.

U.S. Senate Candidate Robert Massie: Bob Massie addresses the committee discussing his reasons for running for the Massachusetts U.S. Senate seat in November 2012. The seat is currently held by Republican Scott Brown. Mr Massie gave a brief but compelling address and stayed to answer questions. His remarks were well received.

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Membership: Ms. Guild announced that she had spoken with Mr. George Siscoe and he noted that he would like to step down from committee membership. Jeanne Maloney stated that she would update the current membership roster she has been maintaining to reflect Mr. Siscoe's decision. Ms Guild expressed appreciation for Mr. Siscoe's past contributions.

New Business: Ms. Maloney raised the matter of the committee funding a scholarship for a graduating senior at Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School. It was noted the school guidelines call for a minimum \$1000 scholarship. It was observed that this would essentially wipe out our current treasury. Mr. Offner mentioned that we shouldn't take it out of our committee funds, but we should be able to raise the funds somehow if this is something we want to do. Other observations made included the fact that we have little control of who is awarded the scholarship, and that we could not possibly win an "arms race" with our wealthier Republican friends for local scholarship funding. It was agreed that we should give this further consideration and consider how most effectively to target funding to deserving scholars.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting for 2011 is scheduled for Thursday April 26, 2011 at 7:15 pm at the First Parish Church.

Announcements

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

If you have not already done so, please forward your 2011 dues contribution of \$35 minimum, made out to Sudbury Democratic Town Committee, c/o Ms. Jane Moeller, Treasurer, 30 Thoreau Way, Sudbury, MA.

John D. Riordan, Secretary, 25 April 2011.