

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)
Minutes of the Meeting of 20 September 2011**

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm at the Sudbury Grange Hall. Nineteen members attended, as well as four guests including State Committeewoman Sue Kennedy and Mr. Ramuel Raagas of Framingham. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 22 August 2011, which had been vetted by e-mail and distributed at the meeting, were discussed. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

Finances: Jane Moeller, Treasurer, reported that the current balance in the committee's bank account is \$954.03. At present the Committee is fully paid up on all outstanding obligations. The Treasurer reported that 21 Committee members are current with their 2011 dues. s

Performance by Ms. Espinola : Ms. Peg Espinola asked if the committee would consent to a performance taping of an original composition of her political song "Backward, Backward We Are Marching". All agreed and enjoyed her spirited rendition.

Sue Kennedy Report: Ms. Kennedy reported on State Committee matters, including Rules Committee consideration of rules changes. She also reported on a just released poll on the U.S. Senate race. Most of the Democratic candidates were faring well against Sen. Brown despite the obvious advantages of incumbency.

Letter to Editor Concerning Scott Brown: There was a discussion about Rev. Judy Deutsch's letter, recently published, and some vitriolic responses that subsequently surfaced. Ms. Guild strongly urged Committee members to become active in the letter writing campaign. Messrs. Hollocher and Moeller volunteered to write letters. After a long discussion Mr. Offner volunteered to help members with letter writing, particularly Ms. Thorner.

December Holiday Party: Ms. Guild noted that the Annual SDTC Holiday Party would be held on Sunday, Dec. 4th at the Hosmer House. Invitations to the party were discussed.

Senate Candidate Debates: Members were reminded of the Oct. 4 Senate Democratic candidate debate at UMass Lowell and the Nov. 6th Democratic Candidate Forum at Concord-Carlisle High School sponsored by the Concord DTC and the 3rd Middlesex Area Democrats.

Health Care Forum: Rev. Deutsch informed the committee of an important Health Care For All Forum also scheduled for Sun. Nov. 6 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at Goodnow Library. Sen. Eldridge, Economist Gerald Friedman and Dr. Benjamin Day will speak.

Attack on Public Pensions: Mr. Offner provided a thorough background report on the bill that recently passed the State Senate purporting to "reform" the state public employee pension system. This mean spirited piece of ill-considered legislation is the particular brainchild of Senate President Therese Murray (D – Plymouth). Mr. Offner pointed out many of the false premises underpinning this anti-public employee legislation. Despite the striking resemblance of this legislation to Republican led attacks on public employee unions in many other states this year, only 10 Senators voted against this bill on final passage. It was small consolation to the committee that our two State Senators (Fargo and Eldridge) voted against this abomination. The bill now goes to the House. Concern was voiced that it was sailing along beneath the radar while everyone was focusing on the expanded gambling legislation.

New Progressive Democrats Organization: Some members attended a recent gathering at Lasell College of Massachusetts Democrats seeking to unite with a stronger voice for progressive leaning Democrats. Senator Eldridge is in the vanguard of this movement.

Tom Conroy Fundraiser: Mr. Raagas of Framingham provided details of an upcoming fundraiser at Rep. Tom Conroy's home in Wayland. All were encouraged to attend.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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The meeting was then adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The next meeting for 2011 is scheduled for Thursday October 20, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Road, Sudbury. Ample parking can be found behind the Grange Hall and Town Hall.

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, 19 September 2011.