

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

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 pm at the Sudbury Grange Hall. Seventeen members attended, as well as three guests including State Committeewomen Sue Kennedy (Acton) and Kate Donaghue (Westborough), and Ms. Robin Kampmann Gunderson (Sudbury). The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

Minutes: Minutes of our meeting of 20 September 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 \$889.03. At present the Committee is fully paid up on all outstanding obligations. The Treasurer reported that 23 Committee members are current with their 2011 dues.

State Committee Report : Ms. Kennedy discussed the state house and senate redistricting map which is available on-line at www.mass.gov. She also noted that there will be open seats for males on the State Committee from both the 3rd Middlesex and Middlesex & Worcester districts. Also noted was an upcoming organizational meeting for the Elizabeth Warren U.S. Senate campaign in Framingham on October 25.

Progressive Income Tax for Massachusetts: Mr. Chauls led a discussion of Senator Eldridge's proposed legislation entitled "An Act to Invest In Our Communities" which would restore the state income tax rate to 5.95 percent, establish an 8.95 percent tax on investment income and increases in personal exemptions and provide low income and senior exemptions from certain tax increases. The net result of the legislation would be a much fairer, progressive income tax burden on Massachusetts residents. Mr. Chauls made a motion, seconded by Rev. Deutsch, to study a forum (local/regional) for examining, discussing and publicizing this important legislation and report back on logistics for the same at the November 15 committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Letter to Editor Concerning Scott Brown: There was a lengthy discussion about the bitterness of certain response to Rev. Judy Deutsch's recently published letter. Mr. Offner strongly urged committee members to stress the values that are at the core of what we stand for as Democrats and not just recite facts, no matter how much they support our positions. Mr. Hollocher noted that he had submitted a letter but CNC did not publish it. Ms. Maloney queried whether it was a little early for a letter writing campaign. Ms. Thorner felt it was important to keep a steady stream of citizen letters critical of Sen. Brown and the Republican philosophy. Mr. Chauls agreed and noted that the focus of letters very much should be directly on Sen. Brown.

Mayor Menino Condemnation: Mr. Offner expressed his view that Mayor Menino should be condemned for his actions directing excessive and unnecessary police action against the Occupy Boston demonstration ongoing at Dewey Square. After much discussion, most of which supported Mr. Offner's sentiments in support of Occupy Boston, but not his attack on Mayor Menino, the conversation turned to a letter drafted by Mr. Offner for the Sudbury DTC to be published locally expressing support for the Occupy Boston movement. After some suggested edits deleting Menino references, Rev. Deutsch moved and Mr. Chauls seconded, that the committee submit the letter for publication and placement on the committee website. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Occupy Sudbury: Rev. Deutsch discussed transforming the regular Saturday peace demonstration on the town common into a broader Occupy Sudbury demonstration. Numerous voices were heard in opposition and questioning the lack of connection between the peace vigil and the much different agenda of the Occupy movement, as well as any formal link between our Committee and the vigil participants. Rev. Deutsch subsequently withdrew her motion.

Redistricting: Mr. Riordan noted with some dismay the dismantling of the Thirteenth Middlesex District, with the total removal of Lincoln, the carve out of some solidly Democratic precincts in Wayland and the replacement of the same with heavily Republican precincts from Marlborough and a precinct from Framingham, two predominantly urban communities with little in common with Sudbury, Wayland and Lincoln. This was despite protestations by Rep. Tom Conroy (D-Wayland). A motion by Mr. Riordan, seconded

**Minutes, Sudbury Democratic Town Committee
October 20, 2011, p. 2**

by Mr. Offner, was adopted unanimously authorizing communication to our House and Senate representatives of our strong sentiment in opposition to this realignment.

December Holiday Party: Ms. Guild noted that the Annual SDTC Holiday Party would be held on Sunday, Dec. 4th at the Hosmer House. Everyone was reminded to save the date and be prepared to discuss logistics and assistance at the November meeting.

State Party Contribution: Mr. Riordan moved and Mr. Offner seconded a motion for the town committee to donate \$100 to the state party account funding a campaign to return Our U.S. Senate seat in 2012 to a Democrat. Mr. Hollocher requested that the amount be increased to \$200. All were in favor as so amended and the motion carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The next meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Road.

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, 14 October 2011.