

**Sudbury Democratic Town Committee (SDTC)**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of April 16, 2013**

Chairperson Beverly Guild convened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. at the Sudbury Senior Center. Fifteen members were in attendance, there were two guests, Mr. John Ryan of Sudbury and Mr. Ramuel Raagas of Framingham, who signed in. Two other members of the public attended, believed to be Sudbury residents, but they did not sign the attendance sheet. The attendance list is attached to these minutes in the permanent record.

**Moment of Silence:** The committee observed a moment of silence remembering the many victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 20, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Moeller provided the Treasurer's report indicating that the bank account of the committee currently held \$1067.85, which consisted of \$654.43 of general, unobligated funds and \$413.42 which represented monies from the committee's Fall 2012 fundraising activities. Ms. Moeller reminded the members that 2013 membership fees were now due. Sixteen members of the committee have paid their 2013 dues.

**State Treasure Steve Grossman:** Ms. Guild introduced State Treasurer Steve Grossman. The Treasurer gave a stirring and at times very moving address that called to mind the sacrifices of our Patriot forefathers and the connections of our history to very current events. He recited from memory the poem celebrating Paul Revere's ride and his remarks were both inspiring and consoling for all to hear, especially in light of the previous day's tragedy. Treasurer Grossman went on to address a number of initiatives of his office that have improved the climate for small businesses in the Commonwealth. He discussed his small business banking partnership program, the need for critical investment in transportation and education infrastructure and the challenge of addressing the state's unfunded pension liabilities. He emphasized however that Massachusetts has the lowest cost of capital it has ever enjoyed, and much of that is due to the prudent management of Governor Patrick and the sound financial management of the Treasurer's office. He answered questions concerning the chronic underfunding of public transit and higher education, affordable workforce housing centered around public transit and state investment (such as the UMass Memorial medical life sciences center, and the regressivity of the state sales tax. He also fielded questions about perceived imbalances in public funding of education that is tilted in favor of poorer communities and the payment of certain state funded welfare benefits that are provided to undocumented residents. There was also an extensive colloquy regarding the MBTA and needed performance management reforms.

**Markey Campaign:** Mr. Offner provided the committee with an update on the Markey campaign which for the time being has been being suspended in light of the tragedy of the Boston marathon bombings.

**By-Laws:** Mr. Riordan made available a copy of the committee's ancient by-laws which has been recorded as an electronic Word document suitable for future editing, etc. Thanks to Mr. Nesky it has been placed on the committee's website. Mr. Noer, Mr. Offner, Mr. Riordan and Mr. Nesky agreed to serve on a subcommittee to review the By-laws and report back to the committee no later than the November 2013 meeting on any recommended amendments or updates.

**State Committee Reports:** Ms. Nazda of the State Committee attended but left after Treasurer Grossman's remarks and was not available to provide a report on the State party meeting.

**Third MAD Breakfast:** Ms. Guild urged all to attend the May 11 breakfast in Waltham. Mr. Offner will be honored with an "Inspiration" award.

**Meeting Dates for 2013:** Mr. Riordan and Mr. Gentile reported on matters regarding the town and senior center officials taking the eleventh hour position that the committee's use of the Senior Center as a public building is inappropriate and that the committee should not host its April meeting in that location. E-mails were received from Town Manager Maureen Valente in this regard, and somewhat bizarrely suggested that the committee use the Goodnow Library instead, which itself is believed to be a public building. The examination of the issue was being referred to Town Counsel for review. Mr. Gentile's firm response and contact with the chair

of the Board of Selectmen was noted and appreciated. It was decided to go forward with the April meeting at the Senior Center. Mr. Gentile will work the issue through appropriate channels and particularly with the Council on Aging. Numerous members of the committee noted that other Democratic town committees regularly meet in public buildings in their cities or towns and it has never been an issue in those communities. Mr. Riordan noted for the record that when arrangements were made to reserve the Senior Center facility for several dates in 2013 it was fully disclosed who the committee was, and further explicit declarations were made at that time to the center executive director that there would be no fundraising whatsoever conducted in the building, that the meetings were strictly monthly business meetings with invited guests and speakers.

**Old Business:** Mr. Noer raised the issue of the Sudbury Dems listserv. Mr. Riordan reported that he and Mr. Offner had made some headway in identifying old, apparently non-working accounts. Mr. Riordan was going to contact other unidentifiable e-mails addresses and ask for their interest in staying on the listserv and providing a minimum of identifying information.

**New Business:** None. The next meeting was announced for Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at a location to be determined.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, John Riordan, Secretary, May 15, 2013*