

## Minutes of the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee Meeting of July 29, 2020 [draft3]

The July 29, 2020 meeting of the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee was called to order by John Riordan, Chair, at 7:07 pm. The following members attended this virtual meeting via Zoom: John Riordan, Carmine Gentile Vice-Chair, Sue Rushfirth Treasurer, Henry Noer Secretary, Linda Hench-Gentile, Gary Bean, Jeanne Malone, Carl Offner, Colin Warwick, Mark McNamee, Nuha Muntasser, Ann Barysh, Tom Hollocher, Tania Vitvitsky, Hank Sorett, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Marilyn Unger-Riepe, Frank Riepe, Jennifer Roberts, Aruna Pundit, Eva Fridman, and Peg Espinola. Dhruva Sen of Framingham attended as a guest.

John apologized for having had to reschedule our July 16 to avoid conflicting with a Biden phone bank scheduled for that evening. He also postponed the meeting because the original date conflicted with a School Committee meeting regarding the status of the fall reopening in light of the pandemic, which some members had wished to attend.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue Rushfirth reported that there was no activity in the account during the past month. All bills have been paid. There is \$1767.01 in the account. She will be making a pre-primary filing to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance in August.

**Nomination and Election of Committee Officers for 2020-2021:** John Riordan reviewed his longstanding intention to step down as chair of the committee this summer. **Chair:** Tania Vitvitsky was nominated and elected unanimously for the upcoming year. She will take over as of August 1. **Vice-chair:** Carmine Gentile accepted nomination to continue as Vice-Chair for the next few months, with the understanding that he may step down at that point. He was reelected unanimously. **Treasurer:** Sue Rushfirth agreed to stay on as Treasurer and was reelected unanimously. **Secretary:** Henry Noer and Peg Espinola were both nominated for Secretary. A roll-call vote was taken and Peg was elected for the coming term. **Affirmative action and outreach adviser:** Nuha Muntasser was nominated and elected unanimously for the position. The results of the election will be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, Elections Division; the Sudbury Town Clerk; the State Democratic Committee; and the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The next order of business was the creation of a new **website** for the Committee. Tania Vitvitsky led this discussion and stated that such a website should be "simple but attractive and functional." Colin Warwick volunteered to manage the project, for which his experience as a product marketer has prepared him. Colin stated that "no comments will be allowed" to prevent trolls from contributing unwanted content. In general it was agreed that "the content should be consistent with what the Committee wants." Henry Noer pointed out that no one person should make all the decisions about what is to be included on the website. A subcommittee had actually been formed a year ago to work on a new website and had reported on their work to the Committee. Tania agreed to find the subcommittee report and send it to Colin.

The meeting was briefly interrupted by the announcement that John Riordan's seventh grandchild had just been born. Under those happy circumstances John left the meeting and handed the (virtual) gavel to Carmine Gentile.

Carmine informed us about how his campaign is going, vis-a-vis his Republican opponent. He has decided against door-to-door campaigning, in light of Covid-19, and instead he will concentrate on digital ads, utilization of the Patch and other online outlets, and possibly sending postcards to unenrolled voters to alert them that he would be walking through their neighborhoods on a specific day and time.. Other strategies are in the discussion phase with his campaign manager, Linda Hench-Gentile. He is already coordinating with the other Democratic politicians and activists in his district as well as with Gus Bickford of the State Democratic Party. Several people on the Committee immediately offered to take one or more signs. Signs will not go up until sometime after the primary in September.

Finally, Dhruva Sen, our frequent visitor from Framingham, asked if we as a Committee would vote to support the Black Lives Matter movement. We did so, unanimously and immediately.

After some discussion it was decided to hold our next virtual meeting on Thursday, August 13, and to decide the dates of meetings for the rest of the year at that time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Espinola, Secretary