

## SUDBURY DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

### DRAFT MINUTES OF May 11, 2022 Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 7:02PM by Chair Tania Vitvitsky.

Present: Chair Tania Vitvitsky, Vice-Chair Carmine Gentile, Secretary Colin Warwick, Treasurer Sue Rushfirth, members Peg Espinola, Mike Ferrari, Eva Fridman, Linda Hench-Gentile, Lisa Kouchakjian, Henry Noer, Carl Offner, Jennifer Roberts, Jack Ryan, Hank Sorett, Scott Christensen, Marilyn Unger-Riepe and guests Ravi Simon, Molly McGlynn (guest Andrea Campbell campaign), Andrea Campbell (guest; AG candidate),

#### **1. Announcements/Communications to/from the Committee**

Tania noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> MAD (Middlesex Area Democrats) annual breakfast has been postponed to September. Marilyn (and Frank) volunteered to host a party for Peg on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

**2. Minutes of April 13, 2022**, meeting VOTED (on motion of Colin Warwick., seconded by Linda Hench-Gentile) accepted unanimously.

#### **7.1 Ukraine: What can we do as a committee?**

Discussion of having 20 (or more) lawn signs “Sudbury Supports Ukraine” created (similar to ones in Concord). Lisa suggested recyclable signs such as the Article 58 proponents had recently used. Mike suggested using a union printer and Linda noted that Connolly Printing is a union printer and provides free design work for signs. Costs vary depending on quantity from \$4 -\$5 per sign as Jen and Carmine noted to \$10 for small batches. Tania noted that her Ukrainian church’s effort to aid people in Ukraine is an all-volunteer effort with all donations going to beneficiaries and no administrative costs. She also noted that Center Makor ( <https://www.centermakor.org/contact-us/> ) in Brookline collects and ships goods to Ukraine and uses funds donated to purchase medical supplies in Slovenia and ship them to Ukraine nearby.

Carmine is working on a Ukraine Resolution for the House and Senate to vote.

#### **3. Treasurer’s Report.**

Sue reported that all of our bills are paid and we have a balance of \$1,875.40. We will defer the check to MAD.

On motion by Peg seconded by Carmine it was VOTED that the Treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously.

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<sup>1</sup> Items which were listed on the agenda are noted in the order which they were discussed at the meeting.

**4. Andrea Campbell, candidate for Attorney General** (one of three candidates for that office in the Democratic Primary election) spoke to us after finishing a Berkshire County zoom. She noted that, “ families are struggling and are frustrated with government...We live in the best state in the nation and the Attorney General’s Office can help.” Campbell’s mother died when she was eight months and her twin brother died in pre-trial detention at 29 years of age. She graduated from Princeton, and UCLA Law School, served as legal counsel for Governor Deval Patrick and a regional planning agency serving 111 municipalities. In answer to questions from Hank and Jack, she noted that she had tried cases to verdict, handling education, labor, and employment cases, and acquired comprehensive experience. Asked about her support for students with IEPs, mental health and autism issues Campbell said that she cared deeply about education and the AG’s office provided a bully pulpit. Campbell said that she would go after “bad actors”, price gouging drug companies. In response to a question by Henry Noer about police scandals, Campbell noted that she had chaired the Criminal Justice Commission for the City of Boston and caused police to wear body cameras and created the office of accountability. Campbell said that statewide public safety would be a priority and she has observed public corruption coming up as an issue quite a bit on the campaign trail.

#### **5. Rep. Carmine Gentile : Legislative report.**

The House passed its FY23 budget bill last month \$49.7 Billion dollars. The Senate Ways and Means Committee released their budget bill yesterday and Senators would be filing amendments this week before later voting the bill. Afterwards a conference committee of three Senators and three Representatives would work out the final budget before both chambers vote it in July.

Some of the high lights included in the bill:

- Child marriage banned
- Common Application for all state benefits
- Enough Pay to stay rate hike, 40% more than last year’s increase for home care workers
- As the Federal government ends its COVID universal school meals program We are continuing it with \$115Million of state funds for FY23
- \$1.6Million to support civics education programs
- \$6 Billion for Chapter 70 includes \$485 increase for 2/6<sup>th</sup> s phasing in of Student Opportunity Act
- \$66 Million increase in Special Educ Circuit Breaker to cover 3<sup>rd</sup> year of out of district transportation costs.....
- \$20M loan forgiveness program and tuition reimbursement for clinical behavioral health workers .....
- 14M increase in child mental health services \$112Million total

6. Select Board Chair Jen Roberts: Select Board and local issues.

Henry Noer prefaced Jen's remarks to remind everyone how much work preparation for and participation in the three-night, 58 article, Annual Town Meeting was and wanted to thank Jennifer for her weeks of effort. He suggested Sudbury was fortunate to have someone willing to give so much thought and time to civic issues.

Jen: Charlie Russo is the new Chair of the Select Board. Janie Dretler is now the Vice-Chair. The Annual Town Meeting went three nights. Jen was pleased that most important articles passed (rail trail, community center, climate). Sudbury still has \$4 million unallocated ARPA funds. The Historical Commission wants the Army Corp of Engineers to do more work to safeguard historical structures along the East West Central Rail Trail. Jen and Lisa both expressed confidence that the sustainability goals of the people expressed by their favorable vote on article 58 would be followed through on. Alex Vai 's advocacy at the ATM was highly praised.

#### **8. Peg Espinola: need for postcard writers for midterms.**

Peg noted that Barbara Head runs a great post carding operation based on sound research. However, while the need remains high, fewer people are continuing with that work and encouraged others to get involved. Linda said that she continues to participate and likewise praised Barbara's efforts.

#### **9. SDTC Secretary**

On motion made and seconded Colin Warwick (who had volunteered in discussion immediately before the meeting being called to order) was VOTED Secretary of the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee. Carmine and Colin had both taken notes tonight and will complete the minutes.

#### **10. New Business**

Henry Noer will draft a statement for our website to express our outrage over the expected abortion ban by SCOTUS.

Sue Rushfirth noted that, depending on the international source, the United States is the 10<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> most dangerous country in the world for women to live in! (and this before the prospective Roe reversal was announced).

11. Carl Offner moved item #11 that we adjourn, the motion was seconded and VOTED to adjourn at 8:35pm.

Next meeting currently scheduled for June 8, 2022 at 7PM on Zoom