

Sudbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of meeting Wednesday, August 30, 2006; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair, David Mortimer, Kristin Kiesel, Stephen Machnik

Absent: Oscar Harrell

Next meeting	Tuesday, September 26, 2006, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center.		
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes		The minutes of the May 23, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.	
Old Business			
Municipal Parking Lot Striping	<p>Dave has e-mailed to Bill Place the parking space survey results for twelve locations: the police and fire stations, the DPW building, Atkinson Pool, Cutting Field, the Mass State Police Crime Lab field,. The surveys indicate what corrections need to be made in striping and signage in order to come into compliance with regulations. Bill indicated that he has alerted his foremen to the requirements, and has ordered signs. Bill did not give a timetable for the work.</p> <p>The Smart Level as borrowed from the Metrowest Center for Independent Living.</p>	<p>Additional information/clarification is needed for the school department and COA lots, Curtis Middle School, the Haynes and Loring schools, and potentially, LS High and Musketahquid.</p> <p>Remaining to be done are the dirt lots of the Davis and Feeley upper and lower fields as well as the Town Hall, Noyes School, Nixon School, and the Goodnow Library.</p> <p>The school department lot has an access ramp that may be too steep to allow it to serve as the space for van unloading. The Smart Level needs to be used to determine the slope. We will also need a training on how to use it.</p>	<p>Dave will call Paul Spooner, the Director of the Independent Living center, and Steve will call Mark Dempsey of the Architectural Access Board to set up a training on how to use the Smart Level.</p> <p>Still to be done: a resurvey once the striping has been complete and the signage installed, to be sure the parking spaces to comply.</p>
Housing for people with disabilities	There has been no movement on this issue. Dave noted, however, that	It is not clear if Mrs. Rhome means people could shelter there now, or if	Dave will clarify with Mrs. Rhome.

	Judith Rhome said her house has a large generator, and could be a shelter for people with breathing problems in time of power failure.	she means once the property is developed for group living.	
Transportation Committee Report	Kris updated the group on the activities of the Transportation Committee, which can be read in full in the minutes of that Committee.	A grant will be submitted to the Crossroads Foundation to hire a consultant to design the two-town collaborative.	See minutes of the transportation committee for more details.
Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Presentations	A presentation to seniors will be part of the Soup's On series October 19 at 12:30 in the Senior Center.	It isn't clear that a similar training can be offered to town staff, since the Department Head meetings are not regularly held.	
Membership Progress Report	<p>Oscar reported that the attorney he hoped to recruit is not available.</p> <p>Kris asked Wayne Walker if her hearing impairment qualifies as a disability. Wayne replied that it does in terms of the Town of Sudbury hiring/personnel policies.</p> <p>We would still like: a parent of a child with disabilities, a HS student with disabilities, and a person who can read building plans.</p>	<p>The committee voted to accept the Town's definition. As a result, Kris qualifies as a person with a disability for the purposes of keeping the Commission at ratio of 51% disabled. Therefore, the Commission would welcome the application of Tess Zinnes.</p> <p>Dave has the names of local groups providing support to people with various disabilities/medical conditions.</p>	<p>Steve will give the application to Tess to fill out.</p> <p>Dave will make contact with the support groups and ask for an insert in their next newsletters. He will also (once school resumes) the schools and ask for contact information for a group of parents with children with disabilities, and also for a HS student with disabilities who might be interested in membership.</p> <p>Dave will ask Sudbury Building Inspector Jim Kelly for leads on someone who can read architectural plans.</p>
New Business			
Joint COA/Commission sub-committee	Dave said that COA Chair Joe Bausk has suggested that a subcommittee of	It will be important to have someone on the Commission able to read plans	

	the COA Board and Commission on Disability be formed, and that Town Meeting be asked to enact a provision that this committee review all planned developments for accessibility issues.	so that plans can be reviewed in a timely way.	
New specifications for vans	Dave received a mailing that offered a preview of a van that is designed with new specifications. Our van is the last to be granted under the old rules. The notice arrived the day after the preview was held.	The new specifications are somewhat controversial.	Dave will try to get a copy of the new specs.
Community Access Monitor Training	A training will be held September 20 and 21 in Bellingham for new monitors. The cost is \$15. The contact person is Amy Cook at 800-322-2020.	Dave requested that details about the training be posted on the Commission's portion of the Town website as soon as possible.	Kris will create a news item for the website with all the details.
Sky Restaurant	A consumer filed a complaint about inadequate disabled parking at Sky Restaurant with the Architectural Access Board, and a copy of the complaint and associated communications are forwarded to the local Commission on Disability. The restaurant had 103 parking spaces, but only four handicap spaces, and inadequate signs. The owner responded that he would immediately remediate the problem, but apparently in a telephone conversation was told by a staffer that instead of following his remediation plan, all he had to do was to designate three spaces as employee parking, and he would then have fewer than 100 spaces and so	The Commission voted unanimously to write a letter to the Architectural Access Board asking why, when the owner had agreed promptly and responsively to the original plan, was he told that he could resolve the problem in a way that resulted in fewer slots for people with disabilities. The letter will not be an appeal of the Board's decision, and will state that the Commission does not disagree with the outcome of the matter.	Dave will write the letter by September 17.

	would only need four disabled spaces.		
Bylaws and Code of conduct	The Commission moved into executive session to discuss personnel issues.	<p>The Commission came out of executive session to vote.</p> <p>The Council on Aging's bylaws state: "If any member is absent from three consecutive regular meetings, except for reasons of health or extenuating circumstances, the Council shall request the member's resignation which upon receipt will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen." The Commission voted unanimously to adopt this as policy, to take effect from hereon in, unless something to the contrary is learned from Wayne Walker.</p> <p>It was noted that the Selectmen's Code of Conduct for Town of Sudbury Committees includes point 15: If circumstances change so that meeting attendance on a regular basis becomes difficult, the committee member will offer his or her resignation to the Board, so that someone who can regularly attend meetings can be selected by the Board.</p>	Kris will follow up with Wayne.
Next meeting	Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 PM, in the Sudbury Senior Center		