

## Sudbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2006; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent: Oscar Harrell

Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Application of Stephen Machnik	Stephen Machnik of 45 Greenwood Road, has applied for membership on the Commission. He has an MBA from Babson and was formerly on the Framingham Commission on Disability.	Members present voted unanimously to recommend his appointment by the Board of Selectmen.	Kris will forward his application along with a request for appointment to Maureen Valente, Town Manager, for conveyance to the Selectmen.
Transportation Initiatives	Kris summed up the two transportation initiatives the Commission has been involved in: a potential joint transportation system with Wayland, and the new subsidized taxi service in Sudbury.	Dave represents the Commission on these initiatives.	The joint transportation committee of both Wayland and Sudbury will meet at 7 PM on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at the Sudbury Senior Center.
Chemical Sensitivity	<p>Dave reported that he has been in touch with the Boston Self-Help group in Mission Hill. The group has a speaker's bureau that will do presentations on chemical sensitivity. A potential member of the Sudbury Commission has a chemical sensitivity disability, and finds it difficult to go to meetings in public spaces like the Senior Center because of fumes from cleaning products and the like.</p> <p>New standards for vans for use in transportation systems like Sudbury's are being written to reduce the chance for chemical sensitivity, but may not</p>	<p>The Commission would like to have a role in making department heads aware of the problem, so that when they are making decisions about cleaning supplies and other supplies as next fiscal year approaches, they have the information they need to choose items that lessen the risk of chemical sensitivity.</p> <p>This might be a good topic for a Senior Center "Soup's on", for a department head training, and/or for an evening meeting for townspeople.</p>	<p>Dave will ask the Self-Help group whether they would be willing to send a speaker for one or more events in Sudbury.</p> <p>Kris will ask Maureen Valente if this type of presentation could be made to the department heads.</p> <p>Stephen will assist with publicity if there is an evening meeting.</p>

	be available in time for the new Senior Center van, expected to arrived after July 1.		
Recruiting members	In order to be a well-functioning Commission, we need to be able to recruit appropriate members. We would like to have a lawyer, especially one with an understanding of building plans, a parent of a child with disabilities, and a high school student with disabilities join the Commission.	It is clear that issues limiting access to public spaces affect both those with disabilities and people who are aging, and changes facilitating access would benefit both groups.	Dave will talk to a mother of a person with Down's Syndrome who has contacted him looking for group homes in the area, to see if she would consider becoming a Commission member.
Parking spaces	Many Town and community buildings, including the Senior Center, do not have appropriate accessible parking spaces.	An initiative the Commission might lead is to have all parking spaces in town examined to see if they meet current standards for number of spaces, size of spaces, and striping and signage. This could be a good project for an eagle scout candidate.	Dave will call the local Boy Scout council to see if there is any interest.
Disability Indicator program	Kris showed the Commission a form that can be used to alert the 9-1-1 system that an individual residing at an address either uses a TTY or has a disability that might hinder evacuation or transportation.	The Commission might work with the police and fire departments to see if such a system/form would be useful in Sudbury.	
Architectural Accessibility	In the future the Commission may review all construction plans to look for accessibility.  Dave said that Jim Kelly and Wayne Walker are the compliance officers, but that Sudbury's plan for accessibility is at least 10 years old and may need revision.	Dave said that referral to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Code, administered by the Architectural Access Board (AAB) is the quickest way to get communities to comply with the code.	

Next meeting	Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center.
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