

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting Wednesday, November 29, 2006; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair, David Mortimer, Kristin Kiesel, Stephen Machnik, Tess Zinnes; guest Susan Stockler

Absent:

Next meeting	Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center.		
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Welcome Susan Stocker	The Commission welcomed Susan Stocker, a Sudbury resident who has applied to be appointed to the Commission. Susan has experience in marketing and in reading architectural plans. Susan's e-mail is: susan.stocker@comcast.net	The Commission voted unanimously to recommend Susan's appointment to the Board of Selectmen.	Kris will send Susan's application and a cover letter citing the Commission's recommendation to the selectmen.
Cori Carvelli, potential new member	Dave has spoken with Cori Carvelli, and thinks she would be a good choice to join the Commission. It was expected that she would be at tonight's meeting.		Dave will follow up with Cori to reaffirm her interest in the Commission.
Minutes		The minutes of the October 25, 06 meeting were approved as corrected.	
Old Business			
Municipal Parking Lot Striping Update: Voting Access	Dave reported that access to the polling places during the recent election was not adequate. In particular, the Fairbank Community Center had incorrectly designated parking spots, the level of the gym floor was higher than the hall floor by an unacceptable amount, and the exit ramp was substandard. The Town had been warned about these issues in	Dave needs help measuring the parking spaces.	Kris and Dave will collaborate to measure the spaces.

	previous years, but apparently has not corrected the problem.		
Municipal Parking Lot Striping Update: Recreation lots	Remeasuring needs to be done for some of the municipal parking sites. Dave finds that it is a two-person job.		Members are asked to contact Dave with their availability to help.
Housing for people with disabilities	Judith Rhome will hold a meeting soon with 7-8 people who might be willing to serve on the Board of the 501(c)(3) she is developing. Once they Board is named, paperwork to establish the foundation can be submitted. It is hoped this can be done by February 2007.	The project seems a likely candidate for funding from several sources, including the CPA funds, a potential Sudbury housing trust, and a state housing trust, since it addresses three of the four interest areas, including open space preservation, passive recreation, and affordable housing.	
Transportation Committee Report	The Transportation Committee has achieved a contract with Tommy's Taxi for the Sudbury Senior Access program. Tommy's rates are considerably higher than those of Natick Cab, but the hours are longer, and Tommy's offers wheelchair accessible vans.		Susan will work to come up with new ways to publicize this service.
Mission Statement and Bylaws	The group made one change to the Mission Statement drafted at last month's meeting, so that it now reads: People with disabilities experience difficulties and barriers in many facets of life, including housing, employment, access, education, and recreation. They may be unnecessarily restricted by their physical environment or by the judgments, attitudes and prejudices of	The group discussed the Commission values, statements that would guide our decision-making process. The following statement is proposed: In our actions, we are guided by these values: A commitment to dealing with each person with compassion, and respect for and appreciation of differences; An openness toward all cultures	The next step will be to develop a list of short-term and longer term goals. Members will e-mail Dave with suggestions.

	<p>others. The Commission on Disability works independently and in collaboration with other Town departments to create and implement programs to provide advocacy, education, and remediation to develop a culture focused on the elimination of barriers and to assist people with disabilities in becoming empowered to advocate for themselves. The Commission does this through independent action and by providing technical assistance to other town departments and to people with disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>(such as the culture of those who sign); An expectation that each individual will take responsibility for his or her own actions, including doing as much as possible for him or herself; and A preference for the least restrictive environment.</p> <p>We view people in the community as our peers, and work with them to resolve problems in support of self-determination and independence in living and decision making.</p>	
New Business			
Tess' project	<p>Tess has three volunteers that have agreed to simulate blindness and two who have volunteered to use a wheelchair, as well as a cameraperson. Tess hopes to recruit a few sophomores and juniors as well.</p>	<p>Tess got the approval of the Commission for a statement about the project to be included in morning announcements. It would be too difficult to simulate deafness, and the volunteer student would probably not be able to get value from the day's classes. This illustrates the severity of deafness as a disability.</p>	<p>Dave will put Tess in touch with a man who can provide training for the students who will simulate blindness.</p>
Sidewalks	<p>Dave pointed out that sidewalks in Sudbury from Musketahquid to the Town Hall are barely negotiable in a power wheelchair, that the sidewalk along Concord Road is in poor shape and needs maintenance, and that there is no sidewalk along Union Avenue.</p>	<p>Sudbury may have a sidewalk installation and/or maintenance plan. The Commission would like to know the policy for where sidewalks are placed, when maintenance is scheduled, what plans there are to add new sidewalks and/or bring curb</p>	<p>Steve will call Bill Place and/or Jim Kelly to ask these questions. Kris will e-mail Steve with Bill Place's telephone number.</p>

	Grades are overly steep, tree roots are causing buckling, and paving is inconsistent between driveways and sidewalks.	cuts and crosswalks into compliance with the ADA. Also, what qualifies as an emergency repair, and how is the DPW notified that an emergency repair is needed?	
Standard meeting date	For the convenience of the members, a new standard meeting day will be chosen.	Beginning in February, the Commission will meet the first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Senior Center.	
Commission Membership	The Commission has received the resignation of Oscar Harrell.	The commission voted to accept the resignation with thanks for Mr. Harrell's years of service.	Kris will draft a letter of thanks to Mr. Harrell.
E-mail updates	Steve's e-mail was incorrectly listed in last month's minutes. It is: Stephen.Machnik@philips.com		
Next meeting	Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 5:30 PM, in the Sudbury Senior Center		