

## Sudbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of meeting Wednesday, October 25 2006; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent: Oscar Harrell

<b>Next meeting</b>	Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center.		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions/Questions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Welcome Tess Zinnes	The Commission welcomed its newest member, Tess Zinnes, who was appointed by the Selectmen earlier in the month. An article on Tess' appointment appeared in the <i>Town Crier</i> , stating that Tess is the only youth appointed to a Town Board.		
Minutes		The minutes of the September 26, 06 meeting were approved as submitted with one abstention.	
<b>Old Business</b>			
Municipal Parking Lot Striping	<p>The spaces at Musketahquid have been striped before the Commission submitted its recommendations, and are probably out of compliance. The spaces at the Senior Center are painted and comply. The school department spaces do not comply due to the slanted ramp.</p> <p>All athletic fields not adjacent to a school or a former school are dirt. As a result, signs indicating parking for people with disabilities are misleading since there are no designated spaces. These are under the jurisdiction of</p>	<p>We hope to get tot lots in town made accessible when they come up for replacement.</p> <p>Kris has written a grant for paving an exercise loop around Haskell Field that would have accessible exercise stations along it. This grant can be submitted to new funding sources.</p>	Dave will meet with Dennis Manone, Director of Park and Rec, to discuss adding paving of these spaces to the capital budget for the year.

	Park and Rec. There is no accessible access to the seating areas of the fields.		
Housing for people with disabilities	Judith Rhome is working with an attorney who is doing pro bono work to create a 501 (c)(3)	A Board of 7-9 people must be recruited in order to file for tax-exempt status. Dave has spoken with Ms. Rhome about the various constituencies that might be represented on that Board.	
Transportation Committee Report	The committee is meeting tomorrow. There is no update at present.		
Architectural Access Board	The Board has sent an e-mail explaining that when a property owner offers a solution to a problem of non-compliance, the solution is formalized as a “stipulated order”, but if another solution is proposed, it supersedes the original order, and staff at the AAB has the authority to make that decision.	There is no follow-up needed from our Commission.	
Commission Membership	A student at L/S who has recently been diagnosed with MS is interested in membership. As well, a woman who e-mailed Tess in response to the Town crier article has expressed interest in joining.	Tess will ask at LS and/or the Staff person in charge of programs for special needs students in the schools to see if there may be a parent of a student with disabilities who might like to become involved in the Commission.	Dave will meet with those interested in membership to follow up.
Mission Statement and Bylaws	Dave distributed a document that explains the value of having a mission statement and bylaws, and outlines a process for developing these documents. The commission wants to	People with disabilities experience difficulties and barriers in many facets of life, including housing, employment, access, education, and recreation. They may be	Commission members will look at the sample bylaws provided by Dave, to see which sections are not needed for a small group like the Commission.

	include language defining the purpose of the organization, the problem(s) it will address, the business (activities) it will encompass to serve the purpose, and the values that guide the work.	unnecessarily restricted by their physical environment or by the judgments, attitudes and prejudices of 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 advocates 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.	Commission members will e-mail Dave with thoughts about the business statement and the values to incorporate in the document.
<b>New Business</b>			
Tess' project	Tess is coordinating a project at L/S to heighten sensitivity to the challenges of people with disabilities. Several students of both genders will agree either to spend a day blindfolded to simulate vision impairment, or in a wheelchair to simulate a mobility impairment, and their experiences will be videotaped. The volunteers will also keep a diary of their experiences. Tess will shape this material into a video presentation that can be show at the school and/or on Cable channel 8.	The commission recommended speaking to the principal to get assistance in publicizing the project, providing training for the volunteers, especially those to be blindfolded, to ensure their safety, and to see if the volunteers can come from all four grades so that the maximum number of classmates will be exposed to the project.	Dave will provide training for the volunteers. Steve will ask his optometrist for recommendation and or donations of eye patches for use in blindfolding students, and Tess will talk to the appropriate school officials.
Sudbury's ADA Plan	The town has a plan for ADA compliance, and the Commission		Dave will see Wayne Walker to

	would like to review it.		get a copy of the plan.
E-mail updates	Steve's e-mail has changed to: <a href="mailto:Stephen.macknik@philips.com">Stephen.macknik@philips.com</a> Tess' e-mail is: <a href="mailto:a2ztess@yahoo.com">a2ztess@yahoo.com</a>		
<b>Next meeting</b>	Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 PM, in the Sudbury Senior Center		

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