

Sudbury Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2006; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent: Oscar Harrell

Next meeting	Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center.		
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes		The minutes of the August 30, 2006 meeting were approved as amended.	
Old Business			
Municipal Parking Lot Striping	The school department office v. Senior Center parking space issue has been clarified, and the slope of the ramp leading to the school department offices has been measured, and is not in compliance. It is not clear which spaces at Town Hall belong to the Town Hall, which to the Noyes school and perhaps to a church in the area. It also remains to be learned the exact number of spaces at Musketahquid.	The spaces at L/S High School have not been assessed, but it is not clear who has responsibility for striping those spaces.	Dave will communicate all the findings of the survey to Bill Place. Dave will ask Bill Place, Wayne Walker, and/or Joann Howe to help clarify this issue for their respective buildings.
Housing for people with disabilities	There has been progress. Beth Rust, the Assistant Town Planner for Housing, has been working with Judith Rhome regarding what money may be available for the project. The fact that it is a multiple use project, combining housing with community preservation and conservation, is helpful. Funds may be available from the Community Preservation Act, and/or from a state housing trust through the Department of Housing	Next steps for Judith Rhome is to form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with a Board of Directors in order to be able to use the tax-exempt status to apply for funds. Ms. Rhome is consulting with an attorney, needs to get an estimated cost to renovate the house and to create the accessible pathway, etc. This is a multi-year project.	When the time comes, the Commission on Disability will write to Mrs. Rhome requesting a role with the project.

	and Community Development. Selectman Larry O'Brien has said that Town Meeting might be able to authorize money for a Sudbury housing trust. Once the Trustees/Commission is established, it would not then need to go back to TM each time it wants to spend money.		
Transportation Committee Report	Joe spoke with Tommy's Taxi, who seemed receptive to working with us. Kris sent Tommy's a draft contract, requesting rates, hours of service, and whether there would be a price differential for wheelchair lift vehicles. There has been no response.		Joe Bausk will visit Tommy's again.
Commission Membership	Tess Zinnes has submitted an application to become a member of the Commission. Dave interviewed her, and she has many good ideas, including ideas for fundraising and awareness forums, including a possible television show about someone becoming "disabled for a day". This might be shown on Sudbury cable.	The Commission voted unanimously to recommend Tess to the selectmen for appointment as a member. Steve Machnik recused himself from the vote because Tess is the daughter of his partner.	Kris will send Tess' application to the Selectmen, with a cover letter explaining that the Commission recommends that she be appointed.
Architectural Access Board	The Board has not responded to the Commission's request for information regarding the process around a parking access complaint against the Sky restaurant.		
New Business			
Mission Statement and	Many town Boards and Commissions	The mission statement should	Kris will ask Wayne for samples

Bylaws	have mission statements and bylaws, and it would be helpful if the Commission on Disability had these documents in place. Dave has written these documents for several other groups.	include what the Commission hopes to accomplish, for example, increasing public knowledge about disabilities, increasing opportunities for employment for people with disabilities, advocacy, and more.	of similar documents for Sudbury town Boards. Each Commission member should e-mail their thoughts about the Mission Statement to Dave, and he will draw up a draft.
Meeting date	The regular meeting date of the Commission needs to be changed to accommodate the schedule of members.	The Commission voted unanimously to change the standard meeting date to the 4 th Wednesday of each month, at 5:30 PM in the Senior Center.	Dave will call Oscar to tell him about the changed day.
Mental Health Disabilities	A colleague of Steve's sent him information with many resources about mental illness and disabilities.	This is useful information and will take some time to absorb.	Steve will ask his colleague if she has ideas about how the Commission can be more helpful to people with mental illnesses.
Next meeting	Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 PM, in the Sudbury Senior Center		