

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting Monday, August 6, 2007; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair David Mortimer, Kris Kiesel Stephen Machnik, Sally Sack, Susan Stocker, Tess Zinnes

Absent: Cori Carvelli

Next meeting			
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes		Minutes of the June 25, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.	
Old Business			
MRC MetroWest Advisory Council	Steve is the Commission's representative to this Council. He reported that he had a conflict for the July meeting but will attend the August meeting.		
Group Home Update	The Woods Road Sanctuary Project (Inc.) Board met earlier today. The meeting was largely involved with reviewing the legal documents that have been prepared to create a 501(c)(3) designation for the project.	The nature trail portion of the project will be the first to be both wheelchair accessible and interactive (having exhibits for people with visual and/or hearing impairments).	
Transportation Update	<p>The new van for the Senior Center has been received and will soon be on the road. The old van will be retained as backup and for use by FISH drivers to take people who use wheelchairs to medical appointments.</p> <p>Dave reported that due to a class action suit, the MTBA is required to spend \$310 million to make their overall system accessible, and to that</p>	Dave explained that concerns about joining the RTA revolve around the amount of time it would take for a member of the Board of selectmen (or their delegate) to attend meetings; the desire not to raise expectations that might then not be able to be met; and the potential difficulty of withdrawing from the RTA because that would require Town Meeting	The joint Council on Aging/Commission Transportation Committee needs to meet.

	<p>end they have hired Gary Talbot to oversee appropriate changes.</p> <p>No further info is known about the MetroWest RTA and Sudbury's potential membership.</p>	action.	
Sudbury ADA Plan	<p>Dave has written a summary memo describing the contents of all the ADA planning documents we have received to date.</p> <p>Dave was contacted by Jim Kelly, Sudbury Building Inspector, to say that a contractor has been hired to make the changes to the parking and other areas of the Fairbank Building to make the polling place conform to the laws for accessibility.</p> <p>Dave reports that Sudbury conducted a self-evaluation for accessibility in 1992 (although this was for structures, not for programs). The evaluation mostly focused on hiring and employment policies. There was no plan in writing to follow up on the self-evaluation. A consultant might be hired to help.</p>	<p>Jim Kelly told Dave he welcomes Commission involvement in reviewing plans for commercial buildings like the Citizen's Bank that is planned for the MacKinnon's plaza, to be sure in advance that these buildings are accessible.</p> <p>Jim said that he does not think we should wait for Town meeting to begin the work of hiring a consultant to evaluate accessibility. It is not clear where the money will come from.</p>	<p>Jim will come to the next Commission meeting.</p> <p>Dave will come to a COA Board meeting to request a delegate from that Board also assist with review of plans.</p>
Publicity	<p>Susan reported that Action Unlimited has twice run her release about the van, but nothing has been seen about the commission itself.</p> <p>The Town crier ran a piece with photos about the new van.</p>	<p>Susan has a written plan for publicity releases, but it may need updating/additions. We need quicker turn-around on approving press releases.</p>	<p>Susan will e-mail the plan to all. Commission members are asked to respond with ideas/suggestions.</p>

	More publicity is needed.		
VIP Committee	This is a subcommittee of the LEPC which is focused on advocating for emergency planning for seniors and people with disabilities in Sudbury. It is important to have a representative of the disability community on the committee.	Dave will be the Commission's representative.	Dave will attend the VIP committee meeting at 10 AM Wednesday, August 8 at Wingate.
Disability Awareness Day	<p>The day itself was a big success, but the student videographer appears to have left for Israel without doing any editing, and without letting anyone know where the tape or disk is.</p> <p>A hearing-impaired student has agreed to be interviewed as part of the documentary about her four years at L/S. This interview needs to be scheduled.</p>	Susan has a friend who is willing to do the editing.	Tess will "Facebook" the videographer to request information about where the videoed material is. As a follow-up, Dave will write a letter to the student's parents asking for their help in obtaining the video.
Brochure	<p>Sally has developed a format for a potential brochure for the Commission. The goals for the brochure are to inform the community about the work of the Commission and to inform people with disabilities about resources that are available to help them.</p> <p>Apparently the brochure can be produced on the color copier at the Town Hall, but it is unclear just what the process is to request that.</p>	<p>We need to determine where the brochure will be distributed (library, Town Hall, etc.) and how many sites there are, which has a bearing on how many copies we need.</p> <p>It would be helpful to have someone who is visually impaired give input into the readability of the brochure. We will need to have the brochure available in several format, such as an oral version for people with hearing impairments.</p> <p>We can also post it on the Town website.</p>	Dave will contact the Mass Commission for the Blind to get a consultation about the visual appearance of the brochure, and will also call Dennis Polselli, Chairman of the Framingham Commission on Disability

		We also need to determine what the content of the brochure should be.	
New Business			
Historical memo	<p>Dave noted several gaps in the Town's ADA plans as revealed in the historical papers Dave has received. Many agendas are available, but very few minutes have survived from the previous incarnation of the Commission.</p> <p>A letter to the Town from the state said that the ADA compliance document failed in two ways, one of which was that the Police, Fire departments and Town Hall had TTY/TDD devices that were read only.</p> <p>The ADA checklist has not been updated in seven years.</p>	<p>To be worked on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The functional ability of the Town to serve the need of an employee with disabilities; development of a training program for department heads and the schools about appropriate interviewing and hiring practices to comply with ADA requirements; • a survey of surrounding towns and of Sudbury to see how many tickets are being written for violations of the handicap parking spaces; • approaching the Sudbury police to see if they are willing to deputize Commission members to document such violations with a resulting ticket being issued; • questions about the accessibility of lockers at the Atkinson Pool; • assistive listening devices of Town Meeting (whether the devices donated by Raytheon are still available, and making their availability known to those with hearing impairments); • writing a letter to local businesses offering guidance and technical assistance to them to make their businesses conform to the ADA at minimal cost • look into tying the receipt of a common victualler's license (new or renewal) to ADA compliance. 	
Number of people with disabilities in Sudbury	Dave reported that it may be possible to include a questionnaire in the January Town census.	The questionnaire if approved needs to be ready by December.	
Financial Report	No update.		
Next meeting	The next meeting will be August 27 at 5:30 at the Senior Center.		

