

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting Tuesday, March 27, 2007; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair, David Mortimer, Cori Carvelli, Kristin Kiesel, Stephen Machnik, Susan Stocker, Tess Zinnes

Absent:

Next meeting	Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center		
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Teleconference phone	The meeting was conducted using the new teleconference phone.		
Minutes		The minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.	
Old Business			
Group Home Update	Judith Rhome plans to have an initial meeting of the Board for her new housing trust, and will arrange to have the meeting at the Senior Center so that Dave can participate via the new teleconference phone.		
Transportation Update	<p>Susan attended the RTA meeting in Framingham March 21, and submitted a written report to the Commission. The RTA expects to be up and running by the start of FY 08, perhaps by outsourcing (at least at first) to the MBTA for services. They are looking to get other communities to join, and hope to make presentations to local communities.</p> <p>Dave said that joining the Framingham RTA might cost Sudbury money above its current contribution</p>	<p>There will be a meeting of the joint Sudbury/Wayland transportation committees Wednesday, March 29, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Wayland Town Building. At the meeting will be Tom Conroy, the new state representative for the two towns, and Joe Nolan, Wayland Selectman, who is an employee of the MBTA.</p> <p>The Commission thanks Susan for attending the meeting in Framingham.</p>	Kris will attend the joint meeting.

	to the MBTA, since membership in the Framingham group would probably be assessed based on a formula based on the population size.		
Acceptance of Mission Statement and By-Laws	The Commission reviewed the Mission statement and by-laws it has been developing.	It was agreed that term limits are not a good idea for the Commission, but would like to get an understanding from the Selectmen that they will not automatically reappoint members after each 3-year term without seeking input from the Commission. The Commission voted separately and unanimously to accept the Mission Statement and By-laws as presented.	
Commission Membership	Sally Sack has applied for membership on the Commission, and has met with Dave. Ms. Sack is an RN, and has a son with cerebral palsy, and as a result has 40 years of experience with services for people with disabilities. She is a strong advocate. She is especially interested in creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities.	The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the Selectmen appoint Ms. Sack to the Commission.	Kris will send the Selectmen a copy of Ms. Sack's application, with a cover letter recommending her appointment.
Community Meetings	There have been several meetings recently that touch on subjects of concern to the Commission. One was the Framingham RTA meeting, another was regarding the new housing trust being developed in Sudbury, and the third is a meeting on sidewalks to be held March 28. Dave sent out an e-mail asking Commission	Commission member will respond to e-mails.	Susan will attend the sidewalk meeting.

	<p>members to let him know if they could attend any of these meetings, and got no reply. (Susan did attend the RTA meeting.) Dave requests that Commission members respond either positively or negatively when he makes such a request.</p>		
<p>Sudbury ADA Plans</p>	<p>Steve contacted Dennis Polselli, in Framingham to learn how the Framingham ADA plan was developed. Apparently there was no written plan in 1991, although a self evaluation was completed but in 1992 there was no written plan. In 2005 the town did pay \$150,000 to an outside consultant to evaluate buildings and programs for accessibility. A plan was developed and released in 2006, and is available on the town website.</p>	<p>We want to look at Sudbury's plan. It may be that the job of being the compliance officer has been split between Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager for compliance with the hiring and personnel compliance, and Jim Kelly, the Building Inspector, for architectural compliance. The Commission may decide to work to make a presentation to the 2008 Town Meeting for funds to hire a consultant to develop a plan if the current plan can't be located.</p>	<p>Kris will ask Jim Kelly about his role in ensuring compliance, and ask to see the plan if he has one in writing.</p> <p>There will be an ah hoc exploratory committee made up of Dave, Tess, Susan, and Steve to look at the feasibility of asking the 2008 Town Meeting for funds for a consultant, and to develop a plan to gather the necessary information to make a cogent case on Town Meeting floor.</p>
<p>Architectural Access Standards</p>	<p>Jim Kelly, as the Building Inspector, is charged with making sure that the AAB requirements are complied with. It is the Commission's role to be sure the Town complies with the standards. For example, the Fairbank polling place is out of compliance due to the location of a curb cut vis-à-vis the van access aisle.</p>	<p>The Commission needs to see the updated standards.</p>	<p>Kris will get the standards from the State House bookstore.</p>
<p>Publicity</p>	<p>Susan hasn't had a chance to do any publicity, but a recent article on Cori's appointment to the Commission has generated several calls, and was the</p>		

	catalyst that made Sally Sack aware of the Commission.		
L/S Disability Awareness Day	<p>What release form should be used?</p> <p>Dr. Ritchie is fine with this event, and has had an e-mail from Tess giving an overview of what will happen.</p> <p>The Commission gave feedback about the interview questions. Added question will seek to learn why students chose to simulate blindness or mobility impairment, and why students chose not to be involved at all.</p> <p>To make sure that students simulating blindness get something out of their lessons that day, teachers may need to adapt some of their methods. To ensure access, teachers with students simulating mobility impairments will need to think in advance about where a wheelchair can be located in their rooms.</p>	<p>The regular school-approved release form should be used.</p> <p>Tess will give both a pre- and post-interview to participants, and will interview teachers as well.</p> <p>The event will be scheduled for May 3 or 4, with training at the school May 2 during ACA.</p> <p>Dennis Polselli, Director of the Handicapped Student Center at Framingham State College, may have good information on adaptations needed to make classrooms and lesson accessible to students with disabilities.</p>	<p>Cori will call a Girl Scout leader she knows who teaches in a preschool with several visually impaired students to learn more about how these students adapt to school.</p> <p>Dave will talk to the pharmacist at Sudbury Pharmacy to see what can be used to help students simulate blindness.</p>
New Business			
<i>Through Deaf Eyes</i>	Dave has information about a very interesting PBS show explaining how ASL speakers have come to develop their culture, which sees American Sign Language as a separate and distinct language of its own, which needs to be accorded the same treatment from non-ASL speakers as would be accorded to any other		

	speaker of a language other than English.		
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