

## Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting Thursday, May 31, 2007; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent:

<b>Next meeting</b>	Monday, June 25, 2007, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions/Questions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Minutes		The minutes of the Tuesday, April 24, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.	
<b>Old Business</b>			
MRC MetroWest Advisory Council	Traditionally the Commission has sent a representative to the Mass Rehab Commission's Advisory Council. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month from 1-3 at the Natick MRC office, 251 West Central Street, Natick.	It would be helpful to have a permanent, consistent delegate to this group. Much useful information about disability issues at the local, state and national level is presented. We need a volunteer.	Steve may be able to attend these meetings, as he works close to this site. He will see if he can adjust his hours to allow him to attend.
Group Home Update	Judith Rhome has gotten six people to serve on the Board for her housing project, and their first meeting will be June 4. Following the meeting, the attorney will begin the paperwork to establish the 501(c)(3) designation that will allow the group to apply for the state housing trusts funds.	The goals of the project: create a group home for people with disabilities in a family-like environment; create a drop-in center for people with disabilities, and create an accessible nature trail.	
Transportation Update	The Selectmen will discuss whether to join the new RTA on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:35. Dave has talked with Dennis Pucelli of the Framingham Commission, and has learned that Dennis is OK with the RTA because	Kris explained that RTA representatives have stated that no towns will be forced to pay for services they do not get, but that money spent for transportation can be leveraged up to three times the	Kris, Joe Bausk, and possibly other members of the Council on Aging Board will attend the Selectmen's meeting.

	<p>he has been assured that Framingham will not lose The Ride service. Dave expressed concerns about the RTA: will what little transportation we have in Town for people with disabilities (only the senior center van and the subsidized taxi service) be lost by being swallowed up by the RTA? How much clout will Sudbury have on the RTA Board? Will having one non-voting member from the disability community who rotates among towns provide meaningful representation on the Board?</p>	<p>amount from other state funds.</p> <p>Sudbury already pays \$105,000 a year to the MBTA and receives no service. If the town chooses to get service through the new RTA, this money (possibly tripled) could be used to improve transportation in town.</p>	
Sudbury ADA Plan	<p>Documents about Sudbury’s ADA plan have been received. Most appear to have been written in about 2000. They are incomplete or sketchy. For example, the public schools are listed as “not accessible”. Is that still the case? What are the barriers?</p>	<p>Dave and Steve will review the documents to see if they can be made into one comprehensible document. Site visits to schools and other buildings will be needed to assess compliance with the plan.</p>	<p>Susan will look over the ADA documents and provide any comments to Dave and Steve, who are members of the subcommittee.</p>
Publicity	<p>Susan presented two proposed press releases, one on the need for more members of the Commission and one inviting comments from the public on matters pertaining to concerns or suggestions for the Commission.</p>	<p>It is not clear if Tess will be able to continue as a member of the Commission after she goes to Smith College in the fall. We need to reach out to the high school to see if other students may be interested in working on the Commission.</p>	<p>Members will get feedback to Susan on the press releases. When she sends the releases, Kris will post them to the Town’s website.</p>
L/S Disability Awareness Day	<p>The day was a big success. The video is going to be edited with input from a professional editor, for airing on the public access cable channel. A few more interviews are needed, including one with a student who has a</p>	<p>Perhaps this awareness day should be repeated, especially in lower grades. Some money as spent on the items needed to simulate blindness.</p>	<p>Steve will get receipts to Kris for reimbursement.</p>

	<p>disability. It would have been better to identify the students who would simulate a disability earlier so that their teachers could prepare to teach differently on that day, especially those working with students simulating blindness.</p>		
<b>New Business</b>			
Finances	<p>The finances of the Commission were reviewed.</p>		<p>Dave will go to the Police Station to inquire if officers are regularly ticketing people who park in handicap spaces inappropriately, since the fines for this fund the Commission's account.</p>
Community Access Monitor Training	<p>A two-day training by the Massachusetts Office on Disability will be held June 13 and 14 in Bellingham. Completing this training and then conducting and writing up a site review that is approved by the Architectural Access Board can qualify someone to be certified as a Community Access Monitor.</p>		<p>Dave and Sally will take the training. Kris will submit the papers to have the registration paid for from the Commission's account.</p>
L/S Sports Stands Accessibility	<p>There is an unanswered question about accessibility at the LS high school sports stands. They must be accessible and meet standards for fire safety, which requires the architect to redesign the seating. In addition, the press box must be made accessible. The architect has appealed to the Commission and to the AAB, and was</p>	<p>Have the plans been redrawn? What is the current status of the stands and press box?</p>	

	denied both times.		
Short Term Goals	It is now half way through the calendar year, and at the next meeting the Commission needs to review the goals and develop an action plan to complete the goals by December.		Members will review the goals and come prepared to discuss them at the next meeting. Kris will e-mail Sally the minutes relevant to the development of the goals.
<b>Next meeting</b>	Monday, June 25, 2007, 5:30 PM, in the Sudbury Senior Center. Kris will be on vacation, and Sally will take the minutes.		