

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Thursday, September 6, 2007; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair David Mortimer, Kris Kiesel Stephen Machnik, Sally Sack, Susan Stocker, guest Jim Kelly, Sudbury Building Inspector

Absent: Cori Carvelli, Tess Zinnes

Next meeting			
Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes		Minutes of the Monday, August 6 meeting were approved as corrected.	
Jim Kelly	<p>The Building Inspector receives plans for renovations and new commercial space in Sudbury, as well as site plans for new construction, and it would be helpful for the Commission on Disability to review the plans for compliance with the Massachusetts AAB and the federal ADA, in order to ensure that new and newly renovated buildings are accessible.</p> <p>Dave has asked the Council on Aging to have a delegate available to review the plans as well.</p> <p>Dave reported that 7 towns in Massachusetts tie renewal of common victualler's licenses to becoming ADA compliant.</p>	<p>Jim will give extra copies of plans he receives to the commission for review. The reviews need to be conducted in a timely way.</p> <p>It would be good if the Commission could be routinely included in the review process for all qualifying projects, including zoning site plan reviews.</p> <p>It would also be good if Sudbury could tie the victualler's license to accessibility.</p>	<p>The commission will review the plans for Citibank (MacKinnon's) and for a new building.</p> <p>The Commission will need to approach the Selectmen to see if the victualler's license can be linked to compliance, since the license is issued by Town Hall.</p> <p>The Commission should ask Town Planner Jodi Kablack to be put on the distribution list for plans.</p>
Old Business			
Sudbury ADA Plan	The law requires that all Town meetings and events take place in accessible spaces, and a plan needs to	The town might be willing to hire a consultant to draw up the plan, and the money for the consultant might	Dave will explore this issue when he sees Beth Rust at the next Housing Trust meeting.

	<p>be in place that notes buildings that do not comply and has a plan and timetable for correcting the problem (although the monetary cost for changes must not be an “undue burden” on the Town.)</p> <p>Sudbury does not have such a plan, and should someone complain about accessibility to the State, the state will want to see the plan. The Town might be open to liability for fines if one is not in place.</p>	<p>be sought at Town Meeting. The money should probably be placed in the Town Planner’s budget. Alternatively, CPA money might be available, and the CPA group is looking for projects.</p> <p>The plan should start with a survey and needs assessment, and provide a transitional plan.</p>	
Publicity	<p>Susan has sent out a press release on how to contact the Commission, and requested that members look for it in local media outlets. She has already had articles on the subsidized taxi program and the Commission phone number published.</p> <p>Susan distributed a list of topics for future articles and requested that Commission members give her additional ideas.</p>	<p>The next article will be a pitch for new members to join the Commission. The one after that will feature parking issues in Sudbury for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Susan will write up additional article, and review them with Sally.</p>
Parking	<p>Dave reported that 31 communities allow Commission involvement in ticketing handicap parking space violators. One town requires that to report a violation, a picture of the rear of the car showing the license plate and the handicap parking spot designation, and another of the front of the car showing that no placard is posted be submitted to the police, who then issue a ticket by mail based on</p>	<p>It will be important to gather information about how the deputy parking violation program works in other towns, and whether it decreases the number of violations over time, before trying to get such an ordinance passed in Sudbury.</p>	<p>Dave will look at the list of communities who do have the ordinance, and divide the list among Commission members so that the Commissions on Disability in those towns can be called for information.</p>

	<p>that evidence.</p> <p>We do not have any information about the number of tickets being issued by the police for these violations, as the police keep no records.</p> <p>Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager, is the Parking Clerk for Sudbury, but it is not known whether he knows how many tickets are awaiting payment for these violations.</p>		
VIP Committee	<p>Dave has joined the VIP committee. Kris wrote a letter to the Springhouse Pond trustees, asking that they appoint a resident as the liaison to the VIP committee. The Trustees appointed Sally.</p>	<p>Dave has learned that the red Cross standards for emergency shelters may not meet ADA standards/definitions.</p>	<p>Dave will attend a shelter management course by the Red cross Saturday, September 8, 9-12, at the Senior Center. Kris will also attend.</p>
Brochure	<p>The group agreed that a brochure is a useful piece of the multifaceted approach we need to take toward publicity, although it does not rise to the level of an educational program comparable to the seminar on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity or the Disability Awareness Day.</p> <p>It is important that brochure designing not distract the Commission from the many vital tasks in front of it that have a direct impact on creating change.</p>	<p>The group has so many tasks to tackle, and group process is so slow, that it may help to break up into two-person teams, with one person being the lead and the second person providing a sounding board when addressing specific topic areas.</p>	<p>Sally would like to take the lead on the brochure, and Susan will assist.</p> <p>Susan and Sally will notify Kris about their meetings so they can be posted.</p>
Disability Awareness Day	<p>Tess contacted the student who has the video of the day, but the student claimed he had already mailed the material. Tess has not received it. Dave wrote a letter to the student's</p>	<p>The video of Disability Awareness Day, which was supposed to be used in October, is currently among the missing and has not been edited, so it will not be available in October.</p>	

	parents asking for helping locating the material, and has received no response.		
Historical memo	<p>Dave reviewed the findings of the historical information on the Commission he was able to get.</p> <p>We want to write a letter to local businesses offering guidance and technical assistance to them to make their businesses conform to the ADA at minimal cost.</p> <p>There are still unanswered questions about the accessibility of lockers at the Atkinson Pool.</p> <p>Assistive listening devices may be available for Town Meeting.</p> <p>The former incarnation of the Commission addressed some of these same issues, but we do not know the results. Former Chair Irina Petsch may have additional information.</p>	<p>Another way to address the Chamber would be to ask to speak to the Chamber at their meeting.</p> <p>Eventually the Commission needs to develop a Speakers' Bureau.</p>	<p>The functional ability of the Town to serve the need of an employee with disabilities should be one of the areas looked at by the consultant who creates the ADA plan.</p> <p>We will need the addresses of local businesses (perhaps from the Chamber of Commerce), as well as Commission funds for printing and postage.</p> <p>We need to find out whether the devices donated by Raytheon are still available, and if so make their availability known to those with hearing impairments.</p> <p>Dave will call Irina Petsch to learn more about the actions of the former Commission.</p>
New Business			
Cori's membership	Dave reported that Cori is not certain her schedule will permit her to remain a Commission member.		
Number of people with disabilities in Sudbury	To get an approximation of the number of people with disabilities in Sudbury, it would be helpful to have something included in the annual census.	The Town Clerk needs to be approached by early December.	
Financial Report	No update; a report on August activity		

	should be available shortly.		
Next meeting	The next meeting will be September 24 at 5:30 at the Senior Center. The Commission designated the last Monday of the month as the standard meeting date, and the following dates were chosen for upcoming meetings: October 29, November 26, January 7, and January 28. Advance notice is helpful in scheduling the room.		