

## Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Monday, January 28, 2008; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair David Mortimer, Guest Lotte Diomede, Kris Kiesel, Anita Simon, Carol Stoner

Absent: Ben Halsband, Stephen Machnik, Ronald McClanahan, Susan Stocker

<b>Next meeting</b>	Monday, February 25, 2008, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road
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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions/Questions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Minutes	Minutes of the Monday, January 7, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.		
<b>Old Business</b>			
<b>Membership</b>			
Application of Lotte Diomede	Lotte Diomede has applied to join the Commission. She has a 7 year old son with several disabilities. He is enrolled at Perkins. Lotte told the group that she has been active in fundraising activities for Children's Hospital, and is helping parents at Perkins set up a web site. Her special interest is making more things accessible, both by being physically accessible and by making information simpler and easier to find and use.	The Commission voted unanimously to offer Lotte a 3-month provisional membership.	At the March meeting for Carol Stoner, and at the April meeting for Lotte, the group will vote on submitting their names to the Selectmen with a recommendation that they be appointed to the Commission.
Interview Format	In order to ensure that the Commission's new policy of group interviews for applicants adheres to accepted practice for interviews and does not unfairly ask questions of one candidate that are not asked of another, it will be important to develop a standard interview format.	An interesting side note is that it is illegal to ask a person if they are disabled in an interview, yet the Commission needs to know because 51% of the membership must be people with disabilities.	Commission members will each develop suggested interview questions and e-mail them to Dave. Dave will put the questions into one document for discussion at next month's meeting.

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Sudbury ADA Plan	<p>The Commission needs to prepare a report for the Selectmen and Town Manager detailing the need for an ADA plan and transition plan, the consequences of not having one, details about how getting a plan was accomplished in other municipalities, and projected costs.</p> <p>The plan is not a project for the Commission; every Town property and every Town program needs to be assessed for accessibility.</p>	<p>The report needs to be completed by early September. An employee in the Purchasing Department in Framingham has access to the RFPs developed by that town for the purpose. We also need to figure out which other towns have developed and ADA plan, and find out how they did it.</p>	<p>Carol will visit Framingham Town Hall to see if she can get copies of the ADA Plan RFP. Dave will contact the Mass Office on Disability to see if he can learn which towns to contact. The Commission members will divide up the towns, call the towns, and report back to the group. We hope to have an article ready for the spring, 2009 Town meeting warrant.</p>
Common Victualers License	<p>Dave has met with Jim Kelly about renewals of Common Victualers licenses, and whether their renewals can be tied to making their establishments accessible. Jim is of the opinion that it would be better to start by approaching businesses on a case-by-case basis to consult with them about their accessibility and offer help in designing modifications if needed. Jim enforces the ADA and AAB requirements when renovations are being done. For example, Our Lady of Fatima wants to install an elevator and a handicap accessible unisex bathroom, but their whole building will need to come into compliance.</p>	<p>Three members of the Commission, Dave, Susan, and Steve, have received the Community Access Monitor training. However the training is quite in-depth and those who have been trained may not feel completely ready to visit a building and make an assessment. The building Inspector has only two on staff and does not have the person power to assess every business in town. Jim gave Dave a copy of the Our Lady of Fatima building plans.</p>	<p>Those who have had the CAM training may need a second training so that they are prepared to go out and help evaluate buildings.</p> <p>Using the newly purchased book that explains how to read architectural plans, Dave will review the Our Lady plans for compliance.</p>
Parking	<p>Dave said that Wayne Walker said that Chief Fadgen is opposed to using</p>	<p>Dave said Jim Kelly is of the opinion that a judge would not waive a ticket</p>	<p>Dave will e-mail the AAB to see if it is aware of any cases in which</p>

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	<p>a police detail (which could be funded through Commission funds) to ticket violators of the handicap parking spaces at local businesses because the spaces may not be marked according to the letter of the law and therefore a violator might win an appeal of the fine.</p>	<p>because the space was marked but the access aisle was not wide enough of the sign was there but not fixed in the ground. The cooperation of the Chief is essential in getting violators tagged.</p>	<p>violators have won an appeal because of incorrect signage. Lotte will find out how much an hour of a police detail costs.</p>
<p>Identifying the Disabled Population in Sudbury</p>	<p>The grant Kris wrote to fund the Voluntary Registry questionnaire was funded. Fire Chief Ken MacLean has approved a disclaimer for the questionnaire that states that depending on the emergency, the FD's ability to aid in an evacuation may be limited.</p> <p>This questionnaire may have limited value for the Commission due to confidentiality laws. An estimate of the population of people with disabilities is 10%, but the Town census list shows only about 80 who identify themselves as having a disability. We would expect about 1,800.</p>	<p>Kris has sent a final draft copy of the questionnaire to the Town Manager and others for a final look before going to press.</p> <p>It would be helpful to know how many Sudbury residents have various types of disability so the Commission could target its projects to activities that would benefit the majority first.</p>	<p>The printing needs to be done before February 25 in order to be stuffed into the Annual Report.</p>
<p>Publicity</p>	<p>Susan and Anita have still not had a chance to talk about publicity.</p> <p>It would be good to get an agreement from the <i>Town Crier</i> and <i>MetroWest Daily News</i> that they would run a monthly column about emergency preparedness for people with</p>	<p>The Commission wants to collaborate with the VIP committee for press releases in 2008.</p>	<p>Susan and Anita will meet.</p>

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	disabilities.		
Financial Report	No report has been received from the Town for November or December.		Kris will check on the status of the reports.
Use of Commission Funds	This discussion was tabled until next meeting.		Discussion will continue.
<b>New Business</b>			
Review, Renew and Reevaluate	Tabled until next meeting; a review of the short term goals is in order.		Dave will give a report on progress toward goals at the next meeting. New members are asked to review the mission statement, values and goals.
Links for Commission's Web Site	Dave has sent everyone the start of a list of URLs that may be useful to people with disabilities. We want to post these links on the Town's website. Dave asked for additions by e-mail.	There has been no response. We need not only the URLs but one or two sentences saying why this link is useful or what it links to.	Commission members are asked to respond to Dave with suggested links.
Mass Commission for the Blind	The Mass Commission is sponsoring a one-day conference called "Focus on Vision Impairment and Blindness" Wednesday, March 12. Dave plans to attend.	Dave is hoping that Ron and/or Ben will also want to attend.	
<b>Next meeting</b>	The next meeting will be Monday, February 25 at 5:30 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Subsequent meetings were scheduled for March 31, April 28, May 19 (to avoid Memorial Day), June 30 and July 28.		