

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Monday, March 31, 2008; 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair David Mortimer, Lotte Diomedede, Ben Halsband, Kris Kiesel, Anita Simon, Susan Stocker, Carol Stoner

Absent with permission: Stephen Machnik, Ronald McClanahan,

Next meeting	Monday, April 28, 2008, 5:30 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road
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Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes	Minutes of the Monday, February 25, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.		
Old Business			
Membership	<p>Members suggested several questions for the standard Commission interview format.</p> <p>This is Carol Stoner's third meeting as provisional member.</p>	<p>Since interviews will be conducted during Commission meetings, it will be important to have a thorough but time-limited interview.</p> <p>The Commission voted unanimously to recommend Carol to the Selectmen for appointment to the Commission.</p>	<p>Carol, Anita and Lottie will meet to develop a final list of questions.</p> <p>Kris will write a letter to the Selectmen.</p>
Sudbury ADA Plan	Dave has researched and developed a report on Sudbury's ADA plan activities.	The Commission thanked Dave for all his work on this report. It was suggested that the content of the report be summarized in a one or two page executive summary that highlights the possible risk the Town takes in not having an ADA plan and transition plan. Some supporting material should also be moved to an appendix.	Dave will make the changes and submit the report once Town Meeting is over.

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Parking	<p>Dave presented a memo for Wayne Walker about the disabled parking violations.</p> <p>It has been determined that police details cost \$35-\$37/hour, minimum of 4 hours.</p>	<p>The members recommended that Dave insert a date by which we hope we can implement the Waltham model for ticketing violators, and offer the Commission's help in learning the details of the Waltham model.</p>	<p>After Town Meeting Dave will present the results of his research to Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager and Parking Clerk. He will attach a copy from the Registrar recommending that towns adopt the Waltham model.</p>
Use of Commission Funds	<p>The Commission is accruing some funds from handicap parking space violators. What can the money be used for that will benefit Sudbury people with disabilities?</p>	<p>The Commission could purchase new parking space signs that conform to the wording required in the law, but since Sudbury has not accepted that portion of state law, any sign that displays the universal symbol of accessibility will do.</p> <p>Needham and Cambridge make small grants to municipal entities and non-profits to benefit people with disabilities.</p> <p>Is it possible to make grants to private individuals?</p> <p>What would be the criteria for making grants? How would we decide who should get them?</p>	<p>Commission members are asked to come to the next meeting with thoughts and suggestions as to the use of Commission funds.</p>
Short term goals	<p>The Commission has not set goals for calendar year 2008. What should they be?</p>	<p>We might work to get the zoning laws changed so that all new construction must include accessible entryways as a step toward universal access. This might be a long term goal. A short-term step would be to have a conversation with Jim Kelly to see what it would take to change</p>	<p>Members are asked to send short-term goal suggestions to Dave before the next meeting.</p>

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		<p>the zoning code.</p> <p>Another goal would be to work to get Sudbury to develop its ADA plan.</p> <p>Assisting in the development of Haskell Field, with an accessible tot lot, could be a goal. Lottie is an indefatigable fundraiser.</p>	
Conferences	Dave has attended five recent conferences on topics related to housing, rehabilitation, pandemic flu, Community First, and vision impairment and blindness.	Major issues covered include Universal Accessibility, employments for people with disabilities (70% of Massachusetts people with disabilities are unemployed and among those who are employed, the average hours paid is 25/week).	
Publicity	In order to get a series of columns, we need a “hook”.	Dave’s experience in flying to Washington for a conference and meeting with travel and lodging barriers could be such a hook.	
Financial Report	No report.		
Identifying the Disabled Population in Sudbury	The Voluntary Registry questionnaire has been distributed with the Sudbury <i>Annual Report</i> .	The Public health Nurse Linda Sullivan has been entering the returns into the database. One concern is that some people did not receive the registry form in their packet.	Kris will investigate.
New Business			
Communication	Dave sends out many e-mails, but gets	Commission members don’t always	Many of the e-mails are

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	few responses. What can be done?	realize that an e-mail that seems informational has a request for response at the end.	informational in nature. If a response is requested, Dave will signal that by putting "Please respond by . . . (and a date)" in the subject line.
Employment Now Coalition	There will be a meeting Friday, April 18 at the Volpe Center in Cambridge to start an advocacy group to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Dave will attend.	The contact person is Jim Lyons, 978-687-4288.	If Commission members would like to attend, let Dave and Jim know.
Train the trainer sessions	The Disability law Center and the National Technical Assistance Center will sponsor a train-the-trainer event, two-all-day sessions to train people to work with people with cognitive impairments to understand the voting process April 23 and 24, 8-4 both days, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Worcester.	Contact person is Nancy Svirida at 800-222-5619.	Dave will attend. If others want to go, contact Nancy.
Next meeting	The next meeting will be Monday, April 28, at 5:30 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for these Mondays: May 19 (to avoid Memorial Day), June 30 and July 28.		

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