

## **Sudbury Commission on Disability**

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, March 31, 2009; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Guest: Debra Ernst, prospective Commission member

<b>Next meeting</b>	Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7:00 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	The minutes of the February 24 meeting were accepted as amended.		
<b>Old Business</b>			
Welcome prospective member	Debra Ernst attended the meeting as an observer. Debra does not have computer access; therefore communication must be by telephone or mail.	If Debra wishes to pursue Commission membership, the group will hold an interview according to the accepted process at the next meeting (April 28.)	Debra will let Susan know if she plans to attend the April meeting.
Parking report	<p>Susan has received photocopies of the tickets written as a result of the Commission's paid parking detail, and distributed a spreadsheet with the information. Wayne Walker provided additional detail about tickets which have not yet reached resolution.</p> <p>One ticket was appealed by the violator, who claimed the space was not marked with a sign. It was the opinion of the Town Counsel that the ticket would not be valid in that case, even though, as Mr. Walker noted, any reasonable person could see that it was a space reserved for people with disabilities. Dave went to the address</p>	<p>The Commission needs to learn how the ticket appeal process is conducted: does Wayne Walker issue a decision immediately, or does he hear the appeal and issue a decision later? If so, the Commission is willing to go check the address of the alleged offense to see if the violator is correct in making statements about the markings on the space.</p> <p>The end result of the parking detail project in fiscal terms is not yet clear, since total income from tickets issued is not yet known.</p> <p>If the project is repeated, the</p>	The Commission will ask Mr. Walker about the appeal process.

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	listed on the ticket to see if the space was marked with a sign, and discovered that there is no such address.	Commission will renew its offer to provide training for the officers involved.	
Financial statement	Money from the parking tickets has been received by the fund. Because it has been cumbersome and slow to get approval to spend the money allocated for the Commission from the parking fines account, a smoother and timelier process is desired.	The Commission VOTED to designate an ad hoc committee to discuss issues surrounding policies related to spending Commission funds. Committee members will be Carol, Susan, Kris and Ben. Debbie would like to assist.  We will need to contact other towns' Commissions to learn what processes they use to access the money.	Susan will call a meeting of the committee.
Haskell Field Update	Planning continues but is made more difficult by the fact that the location and size of the playground is still not known. Fundraising continues. Lotte's group has raised \$10,000 a month so far, for a total of \$30,000, and if permission is ever received from Maureen Valente to earmark \$10,000 of Commission funds for the project, the total will be \$40,000.	The SMILE project is not a project of the Commission on Disability; it is a project of Park and Rec. It is supported, however, by the Commission on Disability.	Lotte is meeting with a group on Friday for more planning on the SMILE playground.
	Walking loop/adult exercise area: the anonymous donor would like a ribbon cutting ceremony the first week in June, probably Thursday June 4 or Friday June 5 at 3:00. The event will be sponsored by the COA, Park and	The pavement on the old sections of walkway along Hudson Road, Fairbank Road, and inside the field is too broken to be considered accessible. Bill Place has promised to repave these. Will that be done	Kris will follow up with Bill Place.

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	Rec, the Selectmen, and if it is willing, the Commission on Disability.	by ribbon cutting? The Commission on Disability will be a cosponsor of the ceremony.	
Survey of the population of people with disabilities in Sudbury	Kris e-mailed Maureen again to request permission to use Town facilities for the survey, to be reimbursed by the Commission on Disability. So far there has been no answer.		
2008-2012 Town of Sudbury Open Space and Recreation Plan	Dave e-mailed Jody to request that his name be removed from the report since he did not in fact participate in its creation.  Jody has extended her deadline by two weeks, but would like a detailed response. This will be a time-consuming project, and only two members of the Commission have been trained as Community Monitors (Susan and Dave). Site visits will need to be made.	What can we do in two weeks that will help Jody meet her deadline, and what can we do longer-term to be sure that all these sites are properly assessed for accessibility?  In the meantime, all the names of everyone on the Commission are listed in the report, giving the appearance of an endorsement of the findings, although until recently we were not aware of the report.  The Commission VOTED to establish an ad hoc committee to work on the report: Lotte, Susan Ben and Peter.	Susan will speak with Jody, request that Commission names be removed, and find out what we can do to meet the deadline, while providing a fuller response later.  Dave will provide Commission members with his annotations of the report which highlight inaccuracies as he is aware of them.  Susan will call a meeting of the committee to get started on accessibility evaluations.
Comment from Outgoing Chairman	Dave said that he is not burned out at dealing with Commission matters, but is deeply concerned that the Town has chosen not to hire a consultant to draft an ADA compliance plan, since it has been out of compliance with federal law for 18 years. As well, he believes	Dave plans to write a letter to the Selectmen asking that they find the money to hire a consultant; if they do so he will not resign from the Commission. If not, he will resign and plans to take steps as a private	Dave said he will write his letter as a letter of resignation, but will leave room for reconsideration if the Town moves to allocate money to hire a consultant.

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	that the issue needs to be dealt with in a stronger way, the opposite of the stance taken by the Commission in writing a letter thanking Maureen Valente and Wayne Walker for their support for this initiative. Dave believes this leaves him no option but to resign as Chair of the Commission, and potentially to resign from the Commission itself.	citizen to ensure the Town complies. The Commission wants to work collaboratively with Town officials and departments, and asked Dave as a member of the Commission not to take actions that could be seen as threatening.	
Election of Officers	The nominating committee submitted the following slate of officers for April 2009-March 2010: Chairperson, Susan Stocker, Vice Chair: Lotte Diomede, Secretary: Kristin Kiesel, Treasurer: Carol Stoner.	Each of the nominees is willing to serve; there were no nomination from the floor. The Commission VOTED unanimously to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee.	Dave and Susan will work to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.
<b>New Business</b>			
Selectmen's Goals	The Commission reviewed the FY 09 Selectmen's goals. Several of the Commission's projects for FY09 fit under the value of "Safety and Well-being"; potholes fit under the value of enhancing a "climate of acceptance and tolerance". In addition, some planned projects fit under these values; work will proceed once permission has been received to spend Commission money in support of these projects.	FY 10: The Commission's priorities for FY 10, as voted at the January 27, 2009 meeting are: <i>Under safety and well-being:</i> Haskell Field Visitability/Livable Communities Follow-up on the walking loop and traffic lights ADA Plan <i>Under enhancing professionalism:</i> Community Access Monitor training <i>Under climate of acceptance:</i> Survey	Kris will report these to Maureen/the selectmen.

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		Parking enforcement	
Thanks	The Commission thanked Dave for his service as Commission Chair, and noted that under his leadership the Commission was revived and strengthened and members have learned a great deal about the ADA law.		
<b>Next meeting</b>	The next meetings will be Tuesdays, April 28, May 26, June 30 and July 28 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center.		

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