

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2009; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair, Susan Stocker, Lotte Diomede, Ben Halsband, Kris Kiesel, Peter Sargent, and

Absent: David Mortimer, Carol Stoner,

Next meeting	Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road
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Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes	The minutes of the Tuesday, September 29 meeting were accepted as submitted.		

Old Business

Assessing Sudbury's Fields	All the assigned fields have been surveyed except Horse Pond, which Lotte will do soon.	There is a need to put the raw data into a report with an executive summary for use by Town departments, with a goal of educating about ADA requirements and raising awareness of accessibility issues. The executive summary will summarize the finding, highlight what needs to be fixed, ask for a timeline on making changes, and saying the Commission will work with the Town to advance accessibility.	Peter will work with Susan to complete the report. Copies of the report will be given to Jody Kablack, Nancy McShea, Bill Place, and an Executive summary to Maureen Valente, Wayne Walker and Jim Kelly.
Publicity	Peter has not yet submitted any articles.	Susan's appearance before the Selectmen went very well. Ben attended. This exposure on Cable TV may help recruitment.	Peter will submit an article about the Zoom Text at the library, and send it to Kris for inclusion on the Commission website.
Library project	The Zoom Text is installed, and is now working properly.		Photos of Ben using the machine and an accompanying article will be sent out to the media by Peter.

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Haskell Field	The grand opening was a great success, with more than 300 people attending. The playground is very successful and seems to be in constant use.	The SMILE group has additional money for more poured-in-place surface. It is the first accessible playground in Middlesex county, and seems to have won an award.	The bathrooms at the site are not accessible.
Braille signs at high school	Susan has spoken to Kevin Roessler, who is in charge of the L/S building and grounds, and he is aware of the issue.	The signs need to be read by a Braille reader, and the incorrect ones need to be identified. Then plans need to be made to replace the signs. Is there a special needs PTO that could help pay for the signs?	Susan and Ben will come up with a timeline to work together to read the signs and identify those which need to be changed.
Web site	Susan distributed a list of links that could potentially be put up on the website.	The Sudbury Angels should get a link. Would it be possible to get a PayPal button on the website in case people want to make donations? If there were donations to the Commission, where would they go (what account)? Do we need a wish list? What about the blog idea? Can we include personal stories of dealing with a disability? Would this be appropriate for the Commission's Town website?	Commission members are asked to review the links suggested by Susan by next meeting. Kris will investigate the PayPal question.
CAM Training	Kris has received Community Access Monitor training.	Kris noted that the attitude of the trainers from the Mass Office on Disability was that cooperation and collaboration works better than confrontation.	
New Business			

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Parking surge	We want to do another police detail project. This time we would like to ask that the two officers who generated the most tickets be invited to participate again; to offer the training from the Waltham police; and to focus on fraudulent use of a placard as well as on parking without a placard.	It was interesting to note that after Susan's appearance on cable, the police posted a reminder to townspeople not to park in the handicapped space without a placard.	Susan will speak to the police chief.
ADA and Transition Plan	The Commission still wants Sudbury to have a plan, but financing is an issue. At the Selectmen's meeting, Larry O'Brien suggested that the Commission pursue grants to fund an outside consultant.	Do we need a 501(c)(3) to apply for grants? Do we need to create a <i>Friends of the Commission on Disability</i> ? We could apply for funds from the Sudbury foundation without having a non-profit arm. Will the Town fathers support this initiative? Lotte is willing to write the grants.	Susan will call Larry O'Brien to follow up on his suggestion, and ask for his commitment to support a Sudbury Foundation grant idea with the other Selectmen and with the Town Manager.
Accessibility	Since accessibility seems to be an interest among Commission members, it was proposed that the Commission next focus on the sidewalks in town.	Is there a Walkways committee in Sudbury? What are the plans for future sidewalks, and for maintaining/improving the ones that already exist? Research is needed.	Lotte will investigate.
Next meeting	The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center. A further meeting date is: January 26, 2010 (last Tuesday of each month; no meeting in December).		

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