

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, September 29, 2009; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

Present: Chair, Susan Stocker, Ben Halsband, Kris Kiesel, Peter Sargent, and Carol Stoner

Absent: Lotte Diomedede, David Mortimer

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| Next meeting | Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road |
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| Issue | Discussion | Decisions/Questions | Next Steps |
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| Minutes | The minutes of the July 28 meeting were accepted as submitted. Please note that the August 25 meeting was canceled due to the lack of a quorum. | | |
| Old Business | | | |
| Assessing Sudbury's Fields | <p>Susan has finalized the checklist to use in assessing Sudbury's fields.</p> <p>Peter has provided aerial views of the fields to use in surveying.</p> <p>Kris made name badges for each member to wear during the process.</p> <p>The following fields will be assessed: Carol: Davis; Peter: Feeley; Susan: upper and lower Featherland; Lotte: Horse Pond; Kris: Fairbank and Haskell.</p> <p>Susan has spoken to the schools about the inaccessibility of Featherland. There is some thought to moving the graduation to the high school field.</p> | <p>It is suggested that Commission members take digital photos to supplement their reports.</p> <p>Carol will assess her field in the next few days and return the smart level Friday.</p> <p>Fields need to be assessed by the next Commission meeting October 27.</p> <p>Is artificial turf accessible? Peter saw a tightly-drawn nylon cloth provide a very stable temporary surface in sand at the Cape. Could this technology be used in Sudbury?</p> | <p>Kris will keep a log of who uses the Smart level when, since there is only one and it must be shared to assess the fields.</p> <p>When each assessment is done, send the results to Susan.</p> <p>The Commission will collate the report information into one report, and rate the priority of each field.</p> <p>Copies of the report will be given to Jody Kablack, Nancy McShea, Bill Place, and an Executive summary to Maureen Valente.</p> |
| Publicity | Peter is still working on publicity. He and Susan have met regarding potential stories. | Peter can interview Commission members for their personal stories. | Peter will submit a recruiting article by next meeting. |

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| Library project | The ZoomText software is causing the computer to run very slowly. There appears to be insufficient memory/and or processing strength. | Can the library pay for a new, more powerful computer? Can they get more memory for the existing computer? Would the Sudbury Foundation give a grant for a new computer and would the library like to write one if they can't afford it out of their budget? Kris could write the grant. | Peter will call the library for an update on what the status of the project is now. |
| Haskell Field | The poured in place surface will be done soon. There will be some wood chips, but they were kept to a minimum in the age 2-5 side. | | |
| Braille signs at high school | The Braille signs at L/S High School are incorrect. Some do not say the same thing as the visible sign says. Ben had reported the problem several times to Scott Carpenter while he was a student there, but it was not fixed. Ben submitted a statement of the problem to the Commission. | Susan has spoken to Kevin Roessler about the issue, and feels that they do want to fix the signs. | |
| Web site | The Commission's website could be much more useful. | It would be helpful to have resources and links for particular segments of the disability community. There is a lot of information out there; categorizing the links would be helpful. Can we have a blog attached to the website? | Members are asked to send Susan favorite website links. |
| CAM Training | Kris will receive CAM training October 13 and 14. | | |

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| New Business | | | |
| Selectmen's meeting October 20 | Susan will speak about Commission activities at the Selectmen's meeting Tuesday, October 20 at 8:00. | | Commission members are asked to attend. |
| What's your passion? | What motivates each member to participate in the Commission? | Lotte's child could not use town playgrounds. Peter wants to raise awareness of the issues of people with disabilities, and to increase accessibility. Carol wants businesses to be more accessible and to help them be aware of the issues and get low-cost ways to improve. Susan is also interested in accessibility issues, and to remove the stigmas around being disabled; also to empower people with disabilities to get jobs for which they would be paid a decent living wage. Kris is interested in livable communities because seniors as they age experience some of the same barriers as people with disabilities. | Accessibility seems to have risen to the top. |
| 6-month plan | The Commission priorities for the year voted in January in rank order are: 1. Haskell Field 2. ADA Plan 3. Community Access Monitor training 4. Survey | Haskell Field is well on the way. The ADA plan remains a high priority. Kris will receive CAM training soon. The survey may not be considered appropriate by the Town. Its role as a marketing tool may be filled by the publicity plan and the website. We would like to do the parking enforcement project | Susan will speak to the police chief. |

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| | 5. Parking enforcement 6. Visitability/Livable Communities 7. Follow-up on the walking loop and traffic lights | again in November. The Commission VOTED to ask Susan to speak with the police chief about the project and again offer the training from Waltham. This time we would like to have the officers focus on learning whether placards are being inappropriately used by those who do not own them as well as parking without placards. | |
| Next meeting | The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Further meeting dates are: November 24, and January 26, 2010 (last Tuesday of each month). | | |

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