

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 2010; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent: Peter Sargent

Guests: Dina Johnson, Jackie Kilroy

Next meeting	Tuesday, May 25, 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, March 30, 2010 meeting were accepted as submitted.		
Old Business			
Publicity	The article looking for new members of the Commission on Disability has appeared at least twice in the <i>Town Crier</i> . The Commission still would like articles about its work to appear regularly in the press. Peter has a list of potential topics, but would like more.	Types of articles were discussed. One idea is to have a “tip of the month” about some disability-related issue. Another is to have a Q & A format. A third is to locate human interest stories relating to one of the items on the topic list, and get the reporter to write a story about it. For example, an article about a woman who works at Sudbury Farms and uses a service dog. Other topics to add to the list are: food allergies and other hidden disabilities like autoimmune disorders and migraine headaches. The point being that these are quite common and that having a disability is part of many people’s experiences.	Lotte will call Peter to discuss the topics, and ways in which the press can be encouraged to write an article related to the work of the Commission every six weeks or so by facilitating contact with someone who can provide a human interest story.
Braille Project	The signs at Curtis are finished. A report needs to be written and given to Dr. Brackett. Lotte talked to the Noyes school TVI (teacher of the visually	This project would be a good subject for a human interest article, with photos of Ben assessing the signs.	Susan and Ben will survey Noyes in May, preferably on a Monday. Susan will write the report to Dr.

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	impaired) and the school welcomes the project.	Loring will be done after Noyes.	Brackett.
Walkways	Lotte spoke to Bill Place about the condition of the walkways. Bill said Haskell is his first priority the year, and then all major streets, including Peakham, Horse Pond Road, and the state roads, although there are complications including plans to install piping which will delay some walkway work. Anyone can initiate a request for a walkway. It does not have to be an abutter, although Bill prefers having a local contact person.	Bill suggested that when a member of the Commission on Disability becomes aware of a walkway issue, he be notified. E-mail is the best way to communicate. Jackie said that a spreadsheet of issues would work best.	Commission members should notify Jackie of walkway issues they have observed. Jackie will put the issues into a spreadsheet. Kris will e-mail the spreadsheet to Bill Place. Jackie's email is: jskilroy@hotmail.com
ADA and Transition Plan	Susan posted a question to the Google group for the Massachusetts Commission on Disability at http://groups.google.com/group/masscod asking for information about whether the ADA plan and transition plan have had a value for a community other than to comply with the law.	So far there have been two replies. One writer suggested that having such a plan makes it easier to add upgrades to ADA compliance when routine repairs are being made, and the other suggested that state law requires states not to contract with municipalities which don't have such a plan, although apparently this is not much known.	Susan will respond to the writer who spoke about the law to get additional details, such as where in the law the contracting requirement appears.
Other: DASH	Dina told the group about the DASH (Disability Awareness Starts Here) educational programs available for schools.	This is something the special needs PTO might be interested in.	Lotte will contact the special needs PTO to see if they would like to collaborate with the Commission on Disability to sponsor one of the DASH workshops in the fall.
New Business			

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Mission Statement	<p>The mission statement and goals were discussed.</p> <p>A review of the goals showed that most of the original goals are still goals, which makes it seem as if the Commission has had no successes.</p>	<p>The Commission VOTED unanimously to separate the goals from the mission and values statement, since the mission and values are permanent, but the goals can change and need to be updated.</p> <p>The goals are quite long term, but successes can be shown if each goal can be broken down into action steps, many of which have already been accomplished.</p>	The goals need to be broken into action steps.
Other: Membership	Jackie Kilroy has attended three meetings of the Commission on Disability so far, and would like to become a member.	The Commission recognizes Jackie's value and good fit with the group. It VOTED unanimously to recommend her appointment to the Selectmen.	Kris will send Jackie's application and request to the Selectmen.
Next meeting	The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Further meetings will be: June 29, and July 27 (last Tuesday of each month).		

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