

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, January 26, 2010; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center

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

Absent: excused: Carol Stoner, not excused: David Mortimer

Guests: Joanne Howe, Executive Director, Sudbury Housing Authority; Officer Nathan Hagglund, Sudbury Police Department

Next meeting	Tuesday, February 23, 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, November 24, 2009 meeting were accepted as submitted.		
Guest Presentations			
SHA plans for affordable and accessible units	Joanne Howe presented the SHA's proposal to build 10 units of family housing in scattered sites throughout Sudbury. One unit would be designated as accessible, with a ramp. The units would replace SHA-owned 4-5 bedroom single family houses with 1, 2 and 3 bedroom duplex units on the same parcels of land. Joanne noted that there are no people with disabilities or families with children with disabilities on the wait list at present but the wait list for families is very long; also that filling the 4 accessible units at Musketahquid is difficult. The new units are designed to look like single-family houses to fit in with the character of their neighborhoods.	<p>The Commission asked why all the units are not being built to be accessible. There are budget concerns, since the two-story units would require expensive lift provisions, and interior modifications for full accessibility are also costly.</p> <p>The Commission asked whether the non-accessible units can at least be made visitable, and Joanne said she would bring this up with her Board.</p> <p>The Commission VOTED unanimously to send the SHA a letter of support for their housing project with the understanding that the SHA will make all the units visitable.</p> <p>The SHA could use support at the Zoning Board meeting Monday,</p>	<p>Susan will write a letter of support to Joanne with the Commission's vote.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to attend the ZBA's meeting.</p>

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<p>Parking “surge”</p>	<p>Officer Nathan Hagglund presented the Commission with a report on the results of the PD handicap parking details operated in November and December. There were 39 violation; of these 26 were of placard violations (5 of these were voided when a placard was produced); 16 other violations of parking in a restricted area (\$15 fine), and one misuse of a placard which carries a \$500 fine and a 30-day suspension of license if convicted.</p> <p>Officer Hagglund is specifically assigned to specialize in traffic issues, of which parking is one. He is actively working with Jim Kelly to bring all business and Town parking lots into compliance with the law, including the permanent installation of marker signs in lots such as Sudbury Farms.</p> <p>Officer Hagglund noted that this detail has raised the awareness of the PD of the handicap parking issue, but due to limited PD staffing, it is not possible to give a concentrated focus on this in the ordinary course of the day, since it requires sitting and waiting.</p>	<p>February 8 at 7:30.</p> <p>Two questions arose: Is it a violation of the law if a person with disabilities is a <i>passenger</i> in a car parked in a handicap designated space but <i>does not get out of the car</i>? Peter is pretty sure that the law says that the person with disabilities must actually enter or exit the car for the placard use to be valid.</p> <p>What should be the fine for parking in a striped area? No one, including people with a placard, is supposed to park in the area striped for van unloading. So should everyone, handicapped placard or not, get a \$15 fine for parking there, or should everyone, handicapped or not, get a \$100 fine?</p>	<p>Peter will research the law and get the information to Officer Hagglund and to the Commission.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>			

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Braille signs at high school	Susan and Ben finished the Braille signs project at the high school, and presented a written report to the Commission. All told, 51 Braille signs were in error and 17 other sign issues were identified.	Kevin reports that there is not currently a person with vision impairments at the high school, so the Commission wonders how prompt action will be to replace the signs. Should the project be extended to other schools?	Susan will e-mail a copy of the report to kris. Susan will give the report to Kevin Roessler, and ask if there is anything the Commission can do to assist with the change; she will also ask for a timeline as to when the new signs will be installed. Lotte will call Dr. Brackett to ask about addressing the sign issue at other schools.
Fields project	Susan has not completed the report.		
Publicity	Peter didn't send out any press releases over the holidays.	The next press release should be about recruiting new members. The one after that should be an educational piece about handicap parking.	Peter will send out a press release asking for new members. A flyer will be posted at the library and other places. Susan will put an item on the cable channel.
New Business			
Membership	Carole is resigning from the Commission due to the demands of her very busy life. Her letter of resignation needs to go to the Selectmen and will become official when they accept it.	New members are needed.	See action steps under publicity.
Walkways	Susan spoke with Sally Hild. She was referred to the website for more information, but the website material is mainly about how a neighborhood	What should the Commission's role be in advocating for improved walkways? What is the overall plan for walkways in town?	Susan will speak with Jody Kablack to learn more, and learn how we can help. The Commission would like to

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	can get a walkway.	Instead of tackling this piecemeal, it would be helpful to understand what is the big picture and the context.	invite a Planning Board member to our next meeting.
ADA and Transition Plan	13 municipalities in Massachusetts have completed a plan.	What did it take to get the plan done? What are the results expected or achieved? How did they do it? Was it worth the effort?	Susan will call the chair of the Winchester Commission on Disability with questions.
Next meeting	The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Further meetings will be: March 30, April 27, May 25, and June 29 (last Tuesday of each month).		

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