

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday, July 27, 2010; 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

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

Absent: Jackie Kilroy

Guests:

Next meeting	Wednesday, September 1, 7:00 PM, Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776
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Issue	Discussion	Decisions/Questions	Next Steps
Minutes	The minutes of the Tuesday, May 25, 2010 meeting were accepted as amended. N.B.: The planned June 29, 2010 meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.		
Membership	Dina Johnson and Jackie Kilroy have both been formally appointed to the Commission		
Old Business			
Publicity	The misspelling of Commission on the Town website has been fixed. The next articles for the Town Crier will include one that has an offer to help people with disabilities and their families with resources, and a press release on the Braille project. Dina has written the press release. There are photos of Ben to go with it. Another press release on the fields project can be written.	John Brackett should be notified about the press release before it is sent out. Jody Kablack and Bill Place need to see the fields project report before a press release is sent out. Do we want a Facebook page or a Linked In page? Is it appropriate for us to have that, since we are a town body?	Dina will e-mail the draft press release to the Commission for comment. Peter will time the press release on the Braille project for the beginning of September/ Susan needs to get the fields project material to peter so he can make a summary report. Dina will email info about the Linked in and Facebook sites to the Commission.
Braille Project	The Braille project continues. L/S High School, Curtis Middle School, Noyes and Loring are done. Next are Haynes,	Are the schools open, at least with custodians, during the summer? If so, that might be an ideal time to complete	Lotte will contact John Brackett on 7/28/10 to tell him about progress on the project, ask for

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	and Nixon.	the Braille project. Ben is available. If the schools aren't available now, the project will continue in September.	help accessing the remaining school, and letting him know the progress so far.
Walkways	The Haskell Field walkway has been repaved and the encroaching bushes have been cut back. A walkway along Hudson road is being worked on.	There are serious gaps in the walkways along route 20. In many places there is no option but to walk in the road or in a parking lot. There are some jurisdictional barriers to completing some of those walkways. The Commission would like to look at the planned walkway improvements and develop a priority wish list for the use of Jody Kablack and Bill Place. A press release could highlight the work that has been done and thank the town for their efforts.	The Commission has been provided with a list of walkways. Lotte and Susan will look to see if they can find it.
ADA and Transition Plan	No update. A bill has been proposed in the Massachusetts House of Representatives that would provide funding for cities and towns to complete their ADA plans.	It is still an open question among the Commission as to whether the ADA plan itself is worth the expense, since the Town is steadily working toward compliance and the chief reason for slowness appears to be lack of funding. Ben notes that although the Flynn building has been made physically accessible, there are no Braille signs.	Lotte will call Tom Conroy to see if he can give us more detailed information on the bill.
New Business			
Sudbury Farms	Ben noted that there are no Braille signs in the Sudbury Farms restrooms. He mentioned that to the manager, and was told they would look into the matter.	Is it a legal requirement for restrooms open to the public to have signs in Braille? The Commission could send a letter to	Peter will investigate the law with regard to Braille signs. Ben will follow up to see if

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		Sudbury Farms saying that a member of the Commission has notice the lack of signs, and to please install them, and offering help in locating a source of the signs. The Commission noted that Sudbury Farms/Roche Brothers has been very supportive of the Disability Community.	Braille signs have been installed.
Guests at meeting	There are several candidates for invitation to Commission meetings. They include: Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities who has repeatedly offered to come, the Selectmen including or liaison larry O'Brien and the new member of the selectmen, Jody Kablack and Bill Place, Robin Paul of the Disability Policy Consortium, Douglas Anderson, an engineer who has helped several towns with their ADA plans, and Anna Wood, the new member of the Sudbury Park and Rec staff who is focusing on activities for people with disabilities.	Anna Wood has organized a power wheelchair soccer game.	Kris will invite Anna to the next Commission meeting.
Calendar and goals	Susan has developed a calendar format on which the Commission can chart planned events and time frames.		Susan will e-mail the chart to Commission members.
Resources	The Commission wants to act as a resource to people with disabilities and their families.	Our section of the Town website still need to be beefed up and made more robust. We also might want a presence on the Sudbury local access cable, either with a promo or with at least a notice.	Dina will work on a PowerPoint slide about the Commission that can go on the cable station.

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		Susan and Peter know people in the industry who might help.	
Brainstorming	It might be useful to take a few minutes at the end of meetings to look at “blue sky” issues and brainstorming.		
Adjourn		The Commission VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 PM.	
Next meeting	The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 7:00 in the Sudbury Senior Center. Further meetings will be: September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 28 2010 (last Tuesday of each month).		

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