
Date: March 25, 2019
Time: 10:02 AM
Location: Thompson Room, Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury
Members Present: Kay Bell (KB), Doug Frey (DF) Pat Guthy (PG), Susan Iuliano (SI), Lisa Kouchakdjian (LK), Susan Rushfirth (SR)
Members Absent:
Others: Representative Carmine Gentile; Janie Dretler, Liaison for Board of Selectmen (part of the meeting)
Public Commenters: Bobbi-Jo Everett, Chris Everett

Convene

The meeting came to order at 10:02 AM. A quorum (at least a majority of 4) was present.

- **Assign clerk to take minutes**
Kay Bell volunteered to record minutes of the commission meeting.
- **Review, discuss, correct and approve Minutes of the Feb 25, 2019 meeting of the Commission**

A few corrections were noted

MSV KB moved and LK seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

- **Discussion of the approval process of future draft meeting minutes**

PG called attention to a letter she sent to Melissa Rodriguez, Town Manager, regarding document exchange for meetings. The concern is related to the COD's compliance with Open Meeting Law provision as it bears on efficient and effective practices for conducting meetings and performing tasks. LK also raised the question of COD document storage for proper public access. Follow up on these issues will be an agenda item at a future meeting

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PG spoke briefly about how the work of the COD encompasses all of the Sudbury population, not only children in school and seniors. The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is a key to gaining an understanding of the needs of the community.

SI passed out a letter received by the Transportation Committee recently from Linda Faust regarding the intersection of Boston Post Road/Rt. 20 and Union Avenue. Ms. Faust who is a visually and hearing impaired Sudbury resident attempted to cross from the shopping center area to proceed to Coffee Works on Union Avenue. She encountered great danger there and a passing police officer assisted her and indicated that the intersection is not pedestrian friendly. Ms. Faust is interested in serving on the Transportation Committee.

SR inquired about the existence of a "Pedestrian Committee." To the best of members' knowledge no such committee exists in Sudbury, though there has been a high degree of interest in better walking conditions expressed in the "Livable Sudbury" projects recently completed.

SI will be leaving the COD and the commission needs to nominate one of its members to serve as a member of the Transportation Committee. PG suggests that we do that perhaps at our next meeting and that the nominee attend some Transportation Committee meetings with SI to achieve a transfer of knowledge to help ramp up to full participation.

PG directed the commission's attention to:

- An online event offered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Transportation Research Board. The topic will be Mobility Management. The event is in two parts: 9AM to noon, basic information about mobility management; and a committee meeting for the Mobility Management Study.
- Celebrate the ADA material available online. The "ADA National Network" is featuring 29th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and is offering a media kits and a variety of materials and events.
- A draft of Guidelines for Public Comment produced by PG based on deliberations at the previous COD meeting will be considered at the next meeting of the COD.

Concerns about access to vocational education were discussed. PG was contacted by a concerned Sudbury parent reporting that the child was not accepted to Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School. LK has been seeking information from Melissa Rodriguez, Town Manager, but has not heard back. Since Sudbury's withdrawal from membership in the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District the Town has not been accepted as a member of the AVRTHS. Representative Gentile explained that all of the five current member towns of AVRTHS would need to approve the acceptance of a new member town. COD members were under the impression that Sudbury would apply but whether that has happened is unknown. PG expressed that both typical students and those learning with Individual Education Plans are entitled to "free and appropriate" education and that for some students with an IEP who are continuing their education through the age of twenty-two access to vocational learning opportunities is critical to future independence.

Representative Gentile explained that the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager direct action on vocational education in Sudbury and suggested that the Town needs a process with plans for dealing with vocational/technical school rejection. Janie Dretler stated that, as a parent, she has been told by educators that when students are entering middle school they should be planning for what high school path they want to pursue.

KB provided a draft Press Release regarding the COD reaching full operational membership for consideration at a future meeting and she provided a copy of communication with Jeffrey Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services, Massachusetts Office on Disability, in which he offers to provide technical assistance and/or advice when the COD invites him to Sudbury.

PG reminded the commission that Bill Barletta, Sudbury's Facilities Director who is responsible for all town-owned buildings including the schools, will attend the next COD meeting.

- **Discussion, deliberation and potential finalization and adoption of the following**

1. Goals/Task for the Commission on Disability for 2019 calendar year

After SI reviewed the work that already had been done on developing Goals, a dynamic process of discussion among all present resulted in the following motions.

MSV LK moved and SR seconded the motion to approve the Goal statement:

To ASSESS the needs of and challenges for persons living with disabilities and to identify barriers to participation of persons living with disabilities in activities, programs, and services of community life in Sudbury.

The motion passed unanimously.

MSV PG moved and LK seconded the motion to approve the Goal statement:

To ASSIST and support the Town and individuals living with disabilities to provide equal access and opportunities for all persons.

The motion passed unanimously.

MSV LK moved and PG seconded the motion to approve the Goal statement:

To EDUCATE the Town Government and the broader community about resources for persons living with disabilities, barriers to equal participation, and the ability of all persons to positively contribute to the community.

The motion passed unanimously.

MSV PG moved and LK seconded the motion to approve an amendment to the "ASSIST" goal by inserting the word "Government" after the word "Town" resulting in:

To ASSIST and support the Town Government and individuals living with disabilities to provide equal access and opportunities for all persons.

The motion passed unanimously.

The goals of the Commission on Disability are:

- To ASSESS the needs of and challenges for persons living with disabilities and to identify barriers to participation of persons living with disabilities in activities, programs, and services of community life in Sudbury.
- To ASSIST and support the Town Government and individuals living with disabilities to provide equal access and opportunities for all persons.
- To EDUCATE the Town Government and the broader community about resources for persons living with disabilities, barriers to equal participation, and the ability of all persons to positively contribute to the community.

The following agenda items will be considered at a future meeting.

2. Review and Adoption of the Input Procedure
3. Review and Adoption of Commission's Rules and Regulations "Meetings."

Adjourn

MSV PG moved and LK seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:16 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

A true copy attest: Kathleen (Kay) F. Bell
Clerk

April 8, 2019
Date