

# Sudbury Commission on Disability

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Date:	December 17, 2018
Time:	10:00 AM
Location:	Thompson Room, Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury
Members Present:	Kay Bell, Pat Guthy, Susan Iuliano
Members Absent:	
Others:	Frank Riepe of the Town Hall Blue Ribbon Committee 2015-2016, Christopher Morely of the Town Hall Blue Ribbon Committee 2015-2016
Public Commenters:	Linda Faust

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## Convene

The meeting came to order at 10:00 AM.  
A quorum (at least a majority of 3) was present.

### 1. Assign clerk to take minutes.

- Kay Bell volunteered to record minutes of the commission meeting.

### 2. Review, amend (if necessary) and accept Minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting.

**MSV** Kay Bell moved and Susan Iuliano seconded the motion, to accept Minutes of the October 30, 2018 Meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability as submitted.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**The chair elected to entertain the following ongoing consideration from agenda item #5, after which the meeting proceeded with the regular order of the agenda:**

#### **Presentation and discussion of comments submitted by Frank Riepe regarding design aspects of the proposed restoration and renovation of Sudbury Town Hall.**

Mr. Riepe reported that the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Sudbury Town Hall concluded that the optimal solution for providing access to all five levels of the building for people of all abilities is to create a new access at the northeast corner of the building. That would provide a vertical, total circulation core that is not possible at the front of the building for a variety of reasons including the fact that the foundation level does not extend under that part of the building

The Permanent Building Committee is considering installing a ramp that would meet all of the MA Architectural Access Board (MAAB) standards from the middle of the side of the building up to the front portico and entrance. The Blue Ribbon Commission sees front access as superfluous in light of the presence of the new northeast entrance with its clear path from the main parking area and excellent accessibility features including an elevator that can reach every level.

Mr. Riepe considers the ramp feature of the Permanent Building Committee to be irrational. The majority of the parking is at the back of Town Hall and the northeast entrance is directly adjacent. He questions whether anyone with mobility issues would pass by that entrance to use a ramp to enter the front doors only to have a basic lift be the sole way to get down to the meeting room floor where the person would have to go toward the back of the building again to access any other levels and bathroom facilities.

He suggests following the pattern undertaken by First Parish Church, also in the Town center, which preserved the historic front entrance features and installed excellent accessible features at the side where the property also has parking.

Ms. Bell asked about the need for a waiver from MAAB if the front entrance is operable but not fully accessible. Mr. Riepe indicated that there will be a need to request waivers for a variety of historical features, beyond the front entrance (e.g. the shape of the stair tread noses on the twin staircase at the front of the building and the handrail configuration). Ms. Bell inquired whether the Blue Ribbon Commission or Permanent Building Committee had made an attempt to poll members of the community living with disabilities about the entrance issues.

Ms. Iuliano noted that Sudbury has other models in different configurations. She inquired when would our input be useful to the Permanent Building Committee. Checking with Elaine Jones, who co-chairs the PBC may be helpful. Mr. Morely explained that payment for the Town Hall Project must come entirely with historic restoration funds and currently funds have been dedicated to other projects, therefore the timing of the Town Hall Project is uncertain.

**Task** Susan Iuliano will bring to the next meeting of the Commission on Disability related resources for our consideration.

**2. (resumed) Review, amend (if necessary) and accept Minutes of the November 25, 2018 meeting.**

- Commission members offered one amendment to the draft minutes.

**MSV** Kay Bell moved and Pat Guthy seconded the motion, to accept Minutes of the November 25, 2018 Meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Discuss officer elections**

**MSV Pat Guthy moved and** Susan Iuliano seconded the motion, to continue with our interim Chairperson until the commission has five members. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Discuss Article II (Membership) of the proposed Rules and Regulations of the Commission on Disability**

- The wording "Article II Membership, Section 4 Appointment" was discussed and the following wording was suggested: Commissioners are appointed by the Sudbury Board of Selectmen upon the advice and recommendation of the Sudbury Commission on Disability.
- The wording of "Article II Membership, Section 5 Terms" was discussed and the following wording was suggested: Commissioners shall be appointed for a term of three years and are eligible for reappointment.
- Article II Membership, Sections 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 were discussed and found acceptable as written. Section 8, which describes specific actions and procedures for attracting and

recruiting members was discussed and deemed unnecessary in the overarching Rules and Regulations for the commission

**MSV** Susan Iuliano moved and Path Guthy seconded acceptance of the wording of Sections 4 and 5 as stated below:

- Section 4 Commissioners are appointed by the Sudbury Board of Selectmen upon the advice and recommendation of the Sudbury Commission on Disability.
- Section 5 Commissioners shall be appointed for a term of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

The motion carried unanimously.

At the next regular meeting of the commission **Article III (Meetings) of the proposed Rules and Regulations of the Commission on Disability** will be considered.

#### **5. Update of open/ongoing items:**

- **Transportation Committee:** Susan Iuliano reported that the Transportation Committee will focus in a targeted way on needs of particular groups.
  - Getting people to medical appointments. The committee will consult with Lyft, Uber, and accessible taxis. They may be able to negotiate or organize some type of program. They will arrange meetings with providers and Emerson Hospital which has done some things like this in the past.
  - Trans-lōc has special software to analyze transportation. MWRTA declined to utilize that resource.
  - MWRTA grant: The committee is still working on a proposal for a Route 20 fixed stop bus route. The schedule is not yet determined. Within Sudbury there would be stops beginning in the west at Steven Anthony's near the border with Marlborough, stopping at a number of locations on Rt. 20 even beyond the eastern town border line. After those stops (that would not go beyond Interstate 95) the bus would proceed express to Riverside Station, the easternmost MBTA Green Line D Branch connection

**Public Comment** A member of the public, Linda Faust, offered: Transportation in Sudbury is not adequate. Having moved to town a few months ago and living with blindness and some hearing loss it has turned out that the limitations of transportation resources are causing a severe loss of independence. Additionally there is no place to even get out and walk near her residence at the Coolidge.

- **Telephone and email:**
  - Kay Bell will design a draft of a form for use in processing community input and bring it to the commission for consideration.
  - Mr. Weiss called the commission to request that Sudbury participate in a multi-town effort to have the MetroWest Daily News, a Gateway publication covering our region, included in the National Federation for the Blind "Newslines," a free service that audibly reads the newspaper to people who cannot see or for any reason cannot read. Participation involves contributing funds, an estimated \$10K total, for the initial inclusion of the newspaper. Once the newspaper is included

there would be no ongoing cost. There are thirteen communities in the region and Mr. Joe Weisse has just begun seeking support. The commission needs further information before responding to this request.

- **Minutes of Musketahquid:** Susan Iuliano will follow up with Sheila Cusolito, Executive Director of Sudbury Housing Authority, regarding details of the minutes of our joint meeting.
- **Musketahquid handicapped parking enforcement:** Pat Guthy encountered Police Chief Nix recently. He confirmed that Musketahquid parking lot is within the Town Police jurisdiction and that his department is ready and willing to enforce handicapped parking rules there.
- **Recruitment and new potential members:**
  - Pat Guthy read a draft letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the appointment of Lisa Kouchakdjian to the commission.

**MSV** Susan Iuliano moved and Kay Bell seconded the motion to send the letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the appointment of Lisa Kouchakdjian to the Commission on Disability.  
The motion carried unanimously.

- Susan Iuliano will arrange to have coffee with Dr. Richard J. Robison, recently retired Executive Director of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, to explore his availability and interest in participating in the Commission on Disability.

**Public Comment** A member of the public, Linda Faust asked: Why did The Ride stop service in Sudbury? Susan Iuliano responded: The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) operates The Ride and Sudbury is outside of their territory. Pat Guthy added that the theoretical access to the commuter rail is a factor; but Sudbury does not have direct access to that. Towns in this region, including Sudbury, contribute funds to MWRTA, and those funds are then returned to the town to be used for transportation services. One service Sudbury implements from that source is our "Ride" program within Town. Susan suggests connecting with Deb Galloway at the Senior Center to get assistance on how to get to The Ride in Framingham.

- **Sudbury Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee:** Kay Bell reported that the November 7th Meet and Greet was well attended by administrators and parents alike, with lively exchange of questions and answers. The December 13th meeting was well attended. The SEPAC has a number of open officer and liaison positions and discussed goals and a variety of housekeeping and development topics. Jeff Lappin, Assistant Director Student Services, gave an update on the Partners program and the Bridges program at Curtis Middle School, Medicaid reimbursement for special needs services facilitation, and other topics. Of note to this commission is the plan for SEPAC to sponsor the Unified Games that will be held in the spring. MCAS testing has been scheduled around the games and all schools will be included. SEPAC will serve as a mechanism for donations and disbursements.

## 6. Report on Library meeting

- Pat Guthy reported: The Goodnow Library has available many resources for patrons with low vision. The Low Vision group that meets at the Sudbury Senior Center could have a presentation from library staff. Esme Green, Executive Director, is eager to meet with and work with the commission to add programs and resources. The Goodnow To Go program caters to people who cannot readily visit the library by polling for their interests and using the Senior Center to distribute and collect materials to those patrons.

## 7. Town Report submission

- Pat Guthy reported that the Commission on Disability has not reported since 2013.

**Task** Pat Guthy will draft a report that will go over our revival to date. She will reach out to Dennis Keohane for information on our financial logistics.

**Task** Kay Bell will send a jpeg file of a version of the graphic we are using on our web page to Pat Guthy.

## 8. Open Forum Procedure

- Pat Guthy requests that members read Board of Selectmen Citizen Comment Procedure, Sudbury Public Schools Public Comment at School Committee Meetings rules and procedures, perhaps other Town bodies' procedures, and the draft list of procedures proposed by Kay Bell so that we can develop a set of procedures for our own use.

**Task** Pat Guthy will supply information on the public comment policies of the Board of Selectmen, Sudbury Public Schools School Committee, etc., for members to consider in advance of the meeting at which the commission will consider the item.

## 9. Open Forum

- Linda Faust inquired about the background of this commission. Pat Guthy summarized the early history and our recent revival. Pat told of her experience with educating students with severe special needs and founding the first Special Education Parent Advisory Committee in Sudbury. Susan told of her work as a Sudbury Public Schools School Committee member and a Board of Selectmen member. Kay Bell told of her desire as an ordinary citizen to help revive this important commission that had gone dormant. Linda could be interested in participating and will think about it as she gets settled in Sudbury.

## 10. Did You Know?

- Pat Guthy would like to establish a monthly article to publish highlighting/spotlighting an underutilized resource or opportunity. We can certainly publish on the Town website and perhaps the Town Crier would accept the item. There is an enthusiastic support for and interest in a monthly information piece to help fulfill our mission.

#### **11. Establish date, time and place for the next Commission meetings.**

- There will be a Special Meeting of Sudbury Commission on Disability: Monday, January 18 at 10 AM in the Thompson Room on the second floor of the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury.
- The next Regular Meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability: Monday, January 28 at 10 AM in the Thompson Room on the second floor of the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury.
- The commission will plan to meet on the last Monday of the months from January through April of 2019 and will revisit the pattern of meeting as membership grows. Those dates are January 28, February 25, March 25, and April 29.

#### **12. Meeting with Dan Nason, Park and Recreation, Board of Health, and Clergy Association**

**Task** Pat Guthy will reach out to Dan Nason and the various staff and the Clergy Association after the holidays to inquire about potential meeting times.

#### **13. New business**

- Pat Guthy expressed concern regarding a number of safety and inclusion issues she encountered and observed at the recent Town Meeting convened at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School that experienced overflow attendance:
  - many in attendance could not hear proceedings well
  - one of the two screens that usually displays simultaneous transcription was dedicated to 2 of the 3 remote overflow rooms leaving people seated on that side of the auditorium unable to clearly read the transcription
  - were there to have been an emergency, it is questionable how safely everyone, particularly those with a mobility issue, would have been able to exit
  - there are only two "slots" dedicated to accommodate a wheelchair and they are situated far in the back of the main auditorium; relegating individuals with wheelchairs to the back does not demonstrate or function as inclusion
  - there is no center aisle in the main auditorium in the wide central seating area resulting in very limited ability to get out of a row

**Adjourn**

**MSV** Susan Iuliano moved and Pat Guthy seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:50 PM.  
The motion carried unanimously.

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

January 28, 2019  
Date