

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: May 28, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM teleconference
Members Present: Pat Guthy (Chair), Kay Bell (Vice-chair), Doug Frey, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo
Members Absent:
Others:

Ms. Guthy called the meeting to Order at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Santangelo will take minutes for the meeting.

The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from May 14, 2020. Ms. Kouchakdjian moved to approve the minutes as edited. Mr. Frey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission discussed the accessibility of the Town website and the vendor proposal presented by M. Thompson at last month's meeting. Ms. Guthy presented a letter that she had drafted on behalf of the Commission, to the Town Manager, to officially lend our strong support to the project and to ask for a meeting for her and Ms. Bell. The group agreed to adopt the letter, as amended via discussion, and that Ms. Guthy should send it with her signature and the names of all COD Commissioners. Ms. Bell proposed that a copy of the letter also be sent to the Board of Selectpersons. Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion to approve the letter as amended and authorize the Chair to send to both parties forthwith. Mr. Frey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission then discussed the dates and times for future meetings. It was agreed that meetings would continue to be scheduled at 6:30 p.m. as ZOOM teleconferences and further, that the dates for upcoming 2020 meetings would be: June 18th, July 9th and August 6th. Ms. Guthy and Ms. Bell to make appropriate scheduling arrangements.

The Commission then turned to the issue of accessibility at the Wayside Plaza on Route 20. A discussion ensued on the duration of the outstanding complaint and it was agreed that there is a lack of awareness in Town that this is a Title III violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Bell provided the Commission with photographs of violations of accessible route from the parking area under review and the Commission agreed that the Ms. Bell would contact the MetroWest Center for Independent Living to draw upon their expertise in successfully resolving these matters.

Ms. Guthy next called for Public Comment. There was none.

The Commissioners then provided updates from various Town committees and initiatives.

- Ms. Guthy reported that the Town Master Planning Steering Committee was coming to the end of its tenure and that issues of accessibility were high on the Plan priority list.
- Ms. Bell reported that the Town Health Department was engaged in numerous COVID-related issues, among them needing to inspect summer camps and other facilities reopening and as yet having no guidelines published.
- Mr. Frey reported that the Transportation Committee is applying for state-funded grants for towns with transportation issues related to COVID-19.
- The Commission discussed and agreed that a letter should be drafted and sent to the Town Clerk to ensure that accessibility issues are adequately addressed for the June Town election, particularly considering the upcoming presidential election. Ms. Guthy and Ms. Bell to collaborate on draft.
- Ms. Guthy led a discussion regarding which Town Commissions/Committees COD should continue to build relationships with and who would be the lead contact for each. Suggestions were: Permanent Building Commission; Planning Board; Board of Health; Council on Aging; Local Emergency Planning Committee; and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAAC). COD currently has some representation on the Transportation Committee, Master Plan Steering Committee, and Sudbury Public Schools SEPAAC. To represent at additional committees it is agreed that there is a need for more Commission members.

The Commission next discussed Planning for Marketing of the Commission's Goals, for community education/awareness. Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Santangelo agreed to further this agenda item by developing ideas to bring back to the group at the next meeting, June 18th.

The Commission then discussed planning for the COD's 2021 Goals and Objectives. There was consensus that the overarching goals and objectives would remain the same, but that the top opportunities should be identified and prioritized. Ms. Guthy asked the Commissioners to bring their thoughts on 2021 to the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Bell. Seconded by Ms. Kouchakdjian. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.