

Date and Time: 06/18/20 6:33 PM
 Location: Webinar
 Members Present: Kay Bell (KB), Doug Frey (DF) Pat Guthy, Chairperson (PG) Lisa Kouchakdjian (LK), Caroline Santangelo (CS)
 Members Absent:
 Also Present: Janie Dretler, Board of Selectmen Liason
 Public Commenters: Maia Proujansky-Bell

Convene: The regular meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) was called to order by Pat Guthy at 6:33 PM. A quorum (at least a majority of 3 of 5) was present.

1. Selection of Meeting Recorder: Kay Bell volunteered to record minutes. Lisa Kouchakdjian will record the next meeting's minutes (07-09-20) and Doug Frey will record the following meeting's minutes (08-06-20).

2. Review and Approval of COD Minutes:

MSV LK moved, KB seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 05-28-20 regular meeting of the COD submitted by Caroline Santangelo as amended.
 The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Updates:

- a) MA Office on Disability (MOD)/Senate Bill 2640: PG shared the response she received from Jeff Dougan, MOD Assistant Director for Community Services. The issue of exemption from requirement to wear face covering for people with disabilities who need that and its implications were the focus of that letter, rather than the potential denial of equitable care that could result from some of the provisions in the guidance associated with Senate Bill 2640.
- b) Wayside Plaza/Metro West Center for Independent Living (MWCIL) response: KB reported that Paul Spooner, Director of MWCIL, indicated that he and Dave Correa will attend to the follow up on the complaint pending at the MA Architectural Access Board regarding access to Bullfinch's Restaurant. He asked that members of the COD act as eyes and ears on the ground for any situations that present obstacles to equal access. Mr. Spooner asks that we stay aware of access as restaurants and camps open up. CS noted that Bullfinch's Restaurant was listed as open in a recent issue of the Boston Globe.
- c) Town Website Accessibility & Funding for this project: Members discussed contributing funds to support the work of Siteimprove to increase accessibility of the website. The intention would not be to relieve the Town of its obligation to make accessibility an integral part of all resources and programs, but rather to demonstrate that the COD sees the need for and highly values "effective communication" as a key component of accessibility.

MSV LK moved, CS seconded the motion to contribute \$1000 seed money from the Handicap Parking Fine account to the Town to support the Siteimprove project to improve accessibility of the Town website.

The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- d) Future meeting with Town Manager, Henry Hayes: PG drafted a letter to Mr. Hayes inviting him to attend a COD meeting wither July 9 or August 6. Members expressed that this is a timely civil rights moment; that along with discussing how the COD can increase our partnering with the town, we can ask what kind of Town we want to be – how welcoming and inclusive? We can promote that the Town has learned about the ADA requirements and address current gaps and incorporate them going forward. The COD needs an “anchor” on Town staff; perhaps formalizing one or both ADA coordinators to work with the COD would be effective, preferably a passionate, qualified professional. Bringing in training on aspect of the ADA would have good impact.

Meeting with Mr. Hayes affords a chance for the COD to learn what his philosophy toward accessibility, inclusion, and universal design are. Perhaps the COD can report directly to the Board of Selectmen (BOS), regularly/annually. Janie Dretler suggested getting a date to do that and to consider using public comment opportunities to inform the BOS of information or concerns.

- e) Transportation Committee (TC): DF reported that TC met on June 5. A special grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is being directed to town to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Sudbury requested \$23,260 for a temporary program to pay for Tommy’s Taxi and JFK Taxi for service arranged 24 hours in advance coordinated through Senior Center staff. A limited number of rides (some wheel chair accessible) will be offered per week. Likely users will be identified and approached by Senior Center staff and the Town Social Worker. Next meeting will be June 5, 10:30 AM, by Zoom webinar.

- f) Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) both Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (L-S): Maia Proujansky-Bell, Lakewood Drive, Co-chair of Sudbury SEPAC was present to share an update. She reported that the co-chairs will meet with the SPS Director of Student Services and, among other things, will request that a SEPAC member participate on the SPS Reopening Task Force to advise on factors affecting students with special learning needs. SEPAC board meetings will resume on June 30, and SEPAC looks forward to working closely with the revived L-S SEPAC. LK reported that several L-S parents ready to join that council and that Ida Ramos, L-S Director of Student Services will have more time to focus on and assist SEPAC moving forward.

Lincoln Public Schools K-8 has no SEPAC, but Ms. Proujansky-Bell noted the SPS Student Services had facilitated Lincoln’s participation in resource events of the SPS.

PG recalled that it was in the 1992-93 school year that she and several colleagues convened the first SEPAC at SPS.

- g) Rail Trail paving: One member of the BOS has expressed opposition to paving the surface of the Bruce Friedman Rail Trail. The rail trail is on the agenda of the next BOS meeting to be held Monday, June 22.
- h) Route 20/Massasoit cutout and sidewalks: PG observed that the project to install an accessible intersection there is underway. The COD sent our comment against implementing the project with the variance to allow a greater cross slope than allowed

by the ADA, to interface to the existing unsafe, inaccessible walkway beyond the intersection. It's unclear what the extent of the project will be.

4 . Board of Health (BOH), Sewataro: KB reported

At weekly meetings statistics on COVID-19 cases for residents are reported by Nurse Phyllis Schilp. She has resumed posting stats on the BOH web pages including demographic breakdown. Disability status and race are not data points collected, so not reported. New cases have dropped significantly. Reopening phases have required inspections and education for restaurants, camps, polling places, recreation facilities, and tennis and swim clubs for compliance with state guidance. Regular BOH tasks also proceed apace as well.

Camp Sewataro is among the five camps being approved for opening soon. Fire and building safety inspections have been done. License application deadline was extended as state COVID-19 guidance was anticipated. Local reduced rate applications were received and will be honored. Accessibility at the facility remains problematic. PG will inquire of Combined Facilities Director, Bill Barletta, as to Sewataro's compliance status. COD has been advised by MOD that Sewataro is covered under Title II (as a municipal property) and Title III (as a privately operated business serving the public).

5 . Public Comment: No further public comment received.

6 . Initial thoughts on Marketing/Communication strategy/plan:

CS shared the beginnings of a slide presentation the COD can use to inform other committees, groups, and the public of our mission and our presence as a resource to support efforts to make Sudbury inclusive of all regardless of ability status. Members discussed the importance of this tool for our progress. Creating a Facebook page and using additional channels (Instagram, Twitter) might help, too. PG suggested including the three overarching COD goals of educate, assess, and assist. Members will study the presentation and offer suggestions to expand it to CS.

7 . Evaluation of progress on Commission in meetings its Goals for 2020

PG referred members to the document in the packet that was compiled in the fall of 2019 to gather and prioritize our goals. She requested that members review it and formulate thoughts for discussion at the July meeting.

8 . Future Meetings: Confirmed to be held Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM and Thursday, August 8, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Both will be held as Zoom webinars.

Adjourn

MSV LK moved and CS seconded the motion to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM

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

July 9, 2020