

Date and Time: 08/06/20 6:34 PM
 Location: Webinar
 Members Present: Kay Bell, Doug Frey, Pat Guthy (Chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo
 Members Absent:
 Also Present: Henry Hayes, Town Manager
 Public Commenters:

Convene: The regular meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) was called to order by Pat Guthy at 6:34 PM. A quorum (at least a majority of 3 of 5) was present.

1. **Selection of Meeting Recorder:** Kay Bell volunteered to record minutes.
2. **Welcome and discussion with Mr. Henry Hayes, Sudbury Town Manager:**

Pat Guthy and Kay Bell summarized the revival of the COD in the last few years and members each introduced themselves, their backgrounds and their reasons for committing to participation in the COD.

Mr. Hayes shared a summary of his background in the United States Air Force, his family and his coming to serve as Sudbury's Town Manager. Mr. Hayes spoke in terms of "diff-abilities" rather than disabilities, meaning all individuals have valuable abilities regardless of other kinds of disabilities they may have.

Mr. Hayes expressed interest in and commitment to recognizing shortfalls in accessibility in Sudbury and working toward remedying those. He talked about the progress of the Self Evaluation project that Combined Facilities Director, Bill Barletta, is overseeing. The report from the Institute for Human Centered Design will be forthcoming at the end of September/early October. Mr. Hayes anticipates using expertise of Town staff to implement incremental transition projects to remove barriers to access in the coming years.

Pat Guthy expressed appreciation that during the process of the Master Plan Steering Committee we were able to bring in some basic training from the Massachusetts Office on Disability and that the result seems to be a heightened awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a civil rights law. She also mentioned the following points:

- o The COD voted to contribute funds to support the project of the Town to make the Town website fully accessible.
- o COD requests a small file cabinet space for COD official records
- o The COD would like to have a designated Town staff person to serve as a connection much like many other Town committees (Historical Districts Commission, Council on Aging, Planning Board...) have to work more effectively together.

Mr. Hayes asked that the COD draft the requests or questions in writing and submit them to him. He acknowledges that the ADA is a civil rights law and that Sudbury has a socio-economic disparity and sometimes a disability disparity in terms of treating people with respect. There is a current community conversation encompassing a wide range of factors and Mr. Hayes requested that members of the COD join that conversation.

Pat Guthy expressed the COD hope to bring education to the community about what the ADA is; Mr. Hayes supports that idea.

Maryanne Bilodeau, the human resources administrator who is the point person for any accommodation an employee may need, is the one to contact. Mr. Hayes recommends not approaching all different staff with issues but to contact Ms. Bilodeau or him.

To find space for records Mr. Hayes needs to know more clearly what the COD is asking for and have the staff help work that out. Seed money for the conversion of the website would be welcome. That project is costly and cannot be fully undertaken this fiscal year. The process for making such a contribution is to propose to the select board, and they formally accept it.

All members expressed appreciation for Mr. Hayes' time with us and his expressions of cooperative leadership and Pat Guthy assured him that he has our support.

3. Updates:

- a) Transportation Committee (TC): Doug Frey reported. TC met July 24th and will meet again August 7. Awaiting response to application for grant from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to subsidize taxi service for community members during the COVID situation. The Community Compact Grant process and preparation of legal documents for the GOSudbury subsidized Uber/microtransit pilot is delayed but moving forward slowly. There was discussion of support for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project. After that meeting Doug Frey worked with a subgroup to make an information flyer to do outreach when the transportation options are available.
- b) Health Department (HD)/Board of Health: Kay Bell reported. HD answered questions from Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School regarding possible protocols for reopening during the COVID-19. Director, Bill Murphy, clarified that the HD does not approve schools' plans but is available to provide information and advice. The Town is planning to add a staff member to address the increased need for services such as contact tracing. The social worker indicated there is a dip in demand for food assistance at this time and that an uptick in the need for various kinds of support is coming as unemployment benefits end and as school reopens. During a short discussion of issues related to the upcoming Town meeting being held outdoors (mosquito borne disease, COVID-19 safety) Kay Bell highlighted consideration of accessibility.
- c) Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC): Pat Guthy and Lisa Kouchakdjian reported. MPSC is completing its work by reviewing a draft of the final report. During the prior MPSC meeting committee members provided comments.
- d) Effects of COVID-19 on people with disabilities: Pat Guthy drew members' attention two articles in the meeting packet - one telling of a person with a disability being denied life-saving medical care; the other telling of how when natural disaster hits people with disabilities often cannot evacuate readily, sometimes can't access a shelter, and now, with COVID-19, may be at great risk in crowded shelter situations.
- e) COD Call Line: Pat Guthy reported. A woman called on behalf of her father, a quadriplegic, who is in need of transportation assistance. Pat reached out to Debra Galloway at the Senior Center, where transportation resources are usually available. "The Ride" service that is available in many surrounding communities is not available in Sudbury. Historically The Ride program was made available only to towns that have a train station. Ms. Galloway invites collaboration with the COD and made a point of saying that working with Doug Frey on transportation outreach was very helpful.

- f) Vocational/Technical School: Pat Guthy reported. Mr. Hayes is looking at the situation and is seeking resolution of the issues for Sudbury students enrolling in voc/tech programs. He will be talking with Bella Wong, Superintendent of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School about it.
- g) Self Evaluation and Transition Plan: Pat Guthy reported. She received an email from Bill Barletta, the Town Combined Facilities Director. He reports that review of outdoor areas is complete and the team is currently working through the school buildings. Inspections likely will be complete by the end of September. The report is expected in October.

Lisa Kouchakdjian expressed that the COD needs to be involved in the processes following up on the report. Pat Guthy said Mr. Barletta will include the COD in the transition planning.

- h) Town Meeting Task Force: Pat Guthy received a 173 page document on the planning for the outdoor meeting and in it Mr. Hayes states that Doug Frey will be involved as a representative of the COD. The first meeting for him to attend will be Monday next; he will listen and catch up on current plans. He inquired about usual participation of persons with disabilities. People with hearing, vision, mobility, and various health challenges or conditions do attend along with many older citizens. Even with the risks presented by COVID-19, the article for the community center is so compelling to older citizens; Lisa Kouchakdjian anticipates many will attend. Discussion of the need for shelter ensued; potential use of one of the courtyards with firm surface was mentioned in materials, but it is away from the baseball field which is the main meeting area to be used. Doug Frey plans to interject that citizens need to know that accessible parking and other accommodations are available and how to request any they may need. Perhaps a small number of people could attend spaced safely indoors. Doug Frey will emphasize advance communication. Lisa Kouchakdjian suggests the COD ask Janie Dretler, our liaison, make a statement at the beginning of the Select Board meetings about accommodations.

4 . Future dates for COD Meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year:

The following Thursday dates were set to meet beginning at 6:30 PM:

- o September 3, 2020
- o October, 1, 2020
- o November 5, 2020
- o December 3, 2020

Pat Guthy suggested that at the next meeting two items for the agenda will be a discussion of goals as they relate to planning priorities for the coming year, and a presentation of the results of a survey of families by the Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), among other things.

Adjourn

MSV Lisa Kouchakdjian moved and Kay Bell seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

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

Sep 3, 2020