

DRAFT: September 13, 2020

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: September 3, 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

Others: Maia Proujansky-Bell, Co-Chair of SEPAC

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 July 22, 2020. Ms. Bell moved to approve the minutes as edited. Ms. Kouchakjian seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from August 6, 2020. Ms. Kouchakjian moved to approve the minutes as edited. Mr. Frey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from July 9, 2020. Ms. Kouchakjian moved to approve the minutes as edited. Ms. Guthy seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission then heard a presentation from Maia Proujansky-Bell, Co-Chair of SEPAC, including a slide presentation of the analysis of a survey conducted by SEPAC with Sudbury Public School parents whose children receive special learning services. Before the presentation, Ms. Kouchakjian advised the Commission that she filed a disclosure with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Clerk pursuant to her ethical responsibilities as a member of the Sudbury School Committee regarding Ms. Proujansky-Bell's presentation. Discussion ensued around the many issues faced and the difficulties experienced by parents, students, and teachers. Ms. Proujansky-Bell indicated that communication, particularly "face to face" is critical and that improvements are being made in that area. All remain hopeful for the new school year despite the huge challenges. The Commission thanked Ms. Proujansky-Bell for the insightful discussion and for the important work of SEPAC in our community.

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

- Mr. Frey reported that the Transportation Committee is applying for state-funded grants for towns with transportation issues related to COVID-19.
- Mr. Frey reported that the Town has received a MAPC grant of \$23,000 to establish an emergency taxi service to provide transportation assistance to targeted populations. More information about the service will be publicized in the coming weeks. Mr. Frey noted that wheelchair service will only be available from 9:30am to 1:30pm and after 4pm due to limitations with the transportation provider, and that ADA provisions do not apply in this circumstance because services are not being provided to the entire population. Mr. Frey further reported that in addition to the state grant, the Transportation Committee has received an additional \$3,000 from the Senior Center (provided by Bay Path) and \$5,000 from the Meadow Walk Mitigation Fund.
- Mr. Frey then gave an update on the progress made on planning the first-ever outdoor Town Meeting. Led by our new Town Manager, Mr. H. Hayes, significant consideration is being given to making the meeting accessible to all, including special parking, planned “shade” areas, and golf carts for transportation from parking areas to the meeting area. The Commission then discussed a letter sent to the Board of Selectmen by the Sudbury League of Women Voters. The Commissioners asked Ms. Guthy to draft and send a letter in support of the Town’s efforts to Mr. Hayes and the Board of Selectmen. It was then discussed if the Commission should enter or read a statement at Town Meeting in support of the new Fairbanks Community Center. Ms. Guthy will investigate with Board of Selectmen how statements from Commissions will be handled at the Meeting.
- Ms. Guthy reported that in October there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to review the final Town Master Plan. She remarked with appreciation that the outcome of the Plan shows how committed the Town is to accessibility and inclusivity.
- Ms. Bell reported that now that Camp Sewataro is closed for the summer, more areas are open to the public. A discussion ensued about the accessibility of the public areas and it was decided to await the publishing of the Town Self Evaluation (in October) before having any further discussion about Sewataro.

The Commission next discussed the Commission Performance Grid as presented by Ms. Kouchakjian and Ms. Santangelo. It was determined that each Commissioner should review the grid and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss.

Ms. Bell raised the question of whether Commission members should be using their private email addresses for Town-related businesses and it was agreed that she would investigate the appropriateness/feasibility of the Commissioners receiving Town email addresses.

Finally, Ms. Guthy and the rest of the Commission thanked Mr. Frey for his work in representing the disability community in planning of Town Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Kouchakdjian. Seconded by Ms. Bell. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.