

Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 11/5/20 6:30 pm
 Location: via Zoom Webinar
 Members Present: Kay Bell (KB), Doug Frey (DF) Pat Guthy, Chairperson (PG), Lisa Kouchakdjian (LK), Caroline Santangeko (CS)
 Members Absent: None
 BOS Liaison Attendee: Jennifer Roberts
 Public Commenters/Guests: Paige Meltzer

(Agenda Item #)

(1) **Open Meeting** PG called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. A quorum (at least a majority of 3) was present. DF volunteered to take minutes.

(2) **Future Meetings** PG discussed future meetings and members agreed first Thursday of month works well. Future meetings set for 12/3/20, 1/7/21, 2/4/21 and 3/4/21. PG mentioned COD may get request for input for Annual Report and she'll prepare draft for 1/7/21 meeting.

PG talked about importance of succession and strategic plans. Committee should discuss further at future meetings.

(3)**Updates** DF reviewed Transportation Committee, including ride statistics from the new emergency taxi service and commented the new program was popular with residents and had a high usage percentage of persons with disabilities. There have been 51 signups so far including 28 persons with disabilities. There have 153 rides including 6 in WAVs (wheelchair accessible vans). There is a new grant opportunity for up to \$250k from MAPC for a continuation of the emergency taxi program. Sudbury plans to apply in partnership with a small number of other towns. Applications are due 11/22/20.

KB reviewed COVID statistics from the Board of Health which are trending upward. The flu clinics ran smoothly and Halloween guidance was issued. Thanksgiving guidance to come. Public Health interns are dealing with call volumes 5 times normal and the social worker is maxed out as are the interns. Some seasonal initiatives may suffer from strained resources.

KB reported SEPAC K-8 saw few COVID cases that effected students or staff in elementary schools. A COVID learning program has been developed for students in learning programs. Administration is attending SEPAC meetings and is playing catch up on evaluations and IEPs for students.

LK reported SEPAC-LS presented to Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services at LSRHS on 10/27 and commented it was good to have visibility for the committee and community. There will be Executive Function event on 11/19 led by Dan Levine. There

is also planning for a Basic Rights program with area SEPACs. The Anxiety meeting went well.

PG asked if these meeting were made available to Goodnow Library for public consumption and LK replied she wasn't sure, but would look into it. CS commented that public could benefit from services regarding anxiety and executive function.

PG mentioned the Mass Office on Disability postponed their virtual annual meeting due to technology issues. KB reviewed her experience at last years MOD was very informative and introduced the new Director.

PG mentioned we have LinkedIn account and have been getting emails, but we can't find passwords. LK thought Lotte Diomedede may have set it up. CS suggested we contact Sudbury IT and KB agreed to contact Mark Thompson.

PG mentioned we need to retain physical copies of our minutes and suggested we look at what other town committees do. A discussion of records retention ensued. PG may follow up with Town Manager to request file drawer for our records.

(4) Email for COD PG discussed email access for COD members. KB volunteered to check with Mark Thompson. PG thought we needed direction from town resources and offered to check with Town Manager.

(5) Public Comment There was no Public Comment. Linda Faust had trouble getting into meeting and KB offered to follow up with Linda.

(6) Self-Evaluation Process PG expressed concerns with Bill Barletta's response to her email. PG feels strongly that if land is open to the public, it should be part of the self-evaluation process. PG mentioned groups have used Sewataro and COD should see drafts of self-evaluation document.

PG reached out to Dave Correia at Metro West Center for Independent Living (MWCIL) and asked him to review Loring School site. PG expressed concern over self-evaluation process and how Town property will be used and made accessible. KB mentioned that information requests have not been responded to in a forthright manner.

LK mentioned potential liability due to lack of compliance and PG pointed out accessibility is a civil right. COD discussed options to obtain requested information.

(7) Loring PG discussed potential peril with staircase plan. KB pointed out that playgrounds are public spaces and subject to rules. LK mentioned focus is on playground and not on accessibility. LK suggested Dave Correia, MWCIL, look at property and evaluate access for upper and lower levels. PG stated that the people in charge need a better understanding of the problem.

(8) Planning PG said COD needed to discuss strategic planning, goals and marketing plans. We also need to review roles within the COD. LK suggested we review our

documents and discuss at our next meeting. PG offered to send out documents next week to allow analysis.

(9) Adjournment LK moved to adjourn, KB seconded and the motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9 14 pm.