

December 3, 2020

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: December 3, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM teleconference

Members Present: Pat Guthy (Chair), Kay Bell (Vice-chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo

Members Absent: Doug Frey

Others Present: Janie Dretler, Board of Selectman; Jen Roberts, Board of Selectman Liaison to the COD; Kristin Drummey, Community Liaison, Camp Sewataro

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

There was no public comment. Ms. Guthy then raised a question if there should be a "Member Forum" following "Public Comment", but after discussion the Commissioners did not feel it was necessary given the breadth of topics already addressed at each meeting.

The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from October 1, 2020. Ms. Kouchakjian moved to approve the minutes as edited. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from November 5, 2020. Ms. Santangelo moved to approve the minutes as edited. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission then discussed the Loring Playground improvement initiative and their recent site visit on 12/02/20. Present at the site visit were Commissioners Guthy, Bell and Kouchakdjian as well as Mr. David Correia, Advocacy Director for the MetroWest Center for Independent Living (MWCIL) and Mr. Mark Dempsey, Access Compliance Inspector, City of Framingham. The MWCIL offers free technical assistance and consultation on ADA building regulations and have previously offered their services to the COD and the Town. The visit resulted in Mr. Correia and Mr. Dempsey identifying several ADA non-compliant aspects of accessible routes, including the access between the upper and lower playground. There was concern from the Commissioners that the "improvement" plan being considered by the Town did not adequately address some of the non-compliant issues and might not have contemplated others. Of paramount importance to the COD is that the Town consider all legal requirements of ADA and "universal design" standards before spending Taxpayer dollars on a potentially non-compliant solution. It was resolved that the Commission would send a letter to the Town outlining these concerns and reiterating the MWCIL's offer of free technical assistance.

Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion to authorize the Chair to distribute include the report generated by the MetroWest Center for Independent Living in the letter. To the following public bodies. Mr. Henry Hayes, Town Manager; Mr. William Barletta, Facilities Director; the Board of Selectmen; Mr. Brad Crozier, Superintendent, Sudbury Public Schools; Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services for SPS, School Principal Loring; and the Sudbury Public School Committee.

Motion was seconded by Ms. Santangelo and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The Commission next discussed the Select Board meeting of 12/1/20 and the Town Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. As requested by, Jen Roberts, Select Board Liaison to the COD, in advance of the meeting, the COD submitted its questions on the status of the Self Evaluation report, including the expected date of issuance. Ms. Guthy reported that the questions were not referenced, nor any answers provided at the Select Board's meeting. In addition, the COD's second formal request to review a copy of the draft findings was ignored. In the face of no response by the Town, Ms. Guthy reached out to the COD's longtime advisor, Mr. Jeffrey Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services, Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD). Mr. Dougan shared that a critical component of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan process, as laid out by the state is the involvement of a town COD and a period of public review and comment. It was observed that neither of these standards appear to be a part of the process being followed by the Town of Sudbury. Following this discussion, Mr. Dougan followed up with a letter to Ms. Guthy outlining their discussion. It was resolved that the COD would continue to work with the MOD to proactively address concerns with the Town and would send a letter resubmitting its questions and attaching the letter from Mr. Dougan to Mr. Henry Hayes, Town Manager, and the Sudbury Board of Selectmen, copying Mr. William Barletta, Facilities Director.

The Commission then discussed a recent Town website posting about "porta-potties, ramps and parking spots" reportedly installed at the back entrance of Sewataro signed by "Team Sewataro". It was not known if "Team Sewataro" consisted of Town employees or management company employees. Ms. Guthy stated that following her attendance at the Select Board meeting she received a phone call from Kristen Drummey, Community Liaison, Camp Sewataro about meeting with the COD on Sewataro inclusion and accessibility initiatives. Ms. Drummey present on the call, then spoke to say the managers would be extremely interested in meeting with the Commission. The COD agreed that Ms. Guthy should set an introductory meeting with Ms. Drummey and Mr. Scott Brody, Manager, Camp Sewataro. Ms. Dretler then suggested that Mr. Hayes be consulted before scheduling a meeting with the management of Sewataro. After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hayes or his designee could attend the meeting if they had interest.

It was then decided that the discussion of Goals be moved to future meeting. It was also reported that there was not yet any additional information about the potentially "missing" handicapped parking fines.

Motion to Adjourn by Ms. Kouchakdjian. Seconded by Ms. Santangelo. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.