

## **Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes**

Date and Time: 1/21/21 6:30 pm

Location: via Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Kay Bell (KB), Doug Frey (DF) Pat Guthy, Chairperson (PG), Lisa Kouchakdjian (LK), Caroline Santangelo (CS)

Members Absent: None

BOS Liaison Attendee: Jennifer Roberts

Public Commenters/Guests: None

**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.

**Public Comment** PG asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

**Strategic Plan and Goals** PG shared KB's Goals document and KB discussed how our Goals track with state laws and guidance for commissions on disability. KB shared a color-coded grid with our projects and how they address our mission of Assess, Educate and Assist. PG stated the document was important and should be included in key presentations. The list ties back to the report that shows projects covered by COD meeting dates.

PG stated the Self-Evaluation is a top goal, as is marketing of the COD to create awareness of what we do and the resources we bring to the town. PG also reiterated how important it is to have COD members on other town committees such as the Transportation and Master Planning Steering committees.

LK talked about how SEPAC brings in Chief Nix to discuss how the police support our schools.

PG stated there are 920 people with disabilities in town and we need to ensure there is information available to this population. Identification of individuals is difficult due to HIPPA laws, but we should explore how to reach out. Lack of access to technology may also be an issue for individuals.

CS talked about working with the St. Vincent & Paul Society to help people and how they could benefit from similar information from the COD. PG suggested we consider liaising with other organizations like the Lions Club that have the same stakeholders as us. PG mentioned the Livable Sudbury project did a good job getting feedback from constituents and we should consider mirroring their process.

LK stated the COD should continue to educate the town, using the Mass Office on Disability help to do so. PG said we needed more COD members and we should contact the Lions Club to see if they have members who may be interested.

Recruitment should be a goal. CS suggested we look at local businesses who might be interested in improving accessibility to their locations.

KB suggested we consider creating a Facebook page, print media, letters to the editor, etc. for outreach. We could look to LSRHS for candidates to help or to set up a social hour to talk about ideas, as visibility is important. PG reiterated that visibility to our stakeholders may result in additional members.

LK volunteered to take notes on the goals within Assess, Educate and Assist. PG stated that ADA training and awareness for town leadership should be key goal for Educate goal.

KB said we should build communication path to work closely with town ADA coordinators as part of the Assist goal. COD should also continue to build on liaisons with other boards in town and be involved in building projects and be part of the team. We should research local problems for people with disabilities and COD should review policies and procedures and analyze data for potential programs.

The COD discussed its vision as building an inclusive Sudbury. PG showed her strategic planning document and the COD agreed it was a good list. PG suggested she and KB refine it and send to other members of the COD.

KB suggested we look at our bylaws and make sure they are appropriate. CS suggested we review how we dispense our financial assets to help the town.

**Other updates** PG distributed the draft of the Annual Town Meeting Report and would appreciate input from the COD. The report is due February 26<sup>st</sup>.

PG reviewed her conversation with Bill Barletta regarding the Loring School project requesting information to share with the COD. Mr. Barletta had responded that he is working on it. PG's request for a seat at the table with Sudbury Schools Superintendent, Brad Crozier, and Director of Student Services, Stephanie Juriansz, was not returned.

PG communicated with Jeff Dougan of MOD regarding past Sudbury applications that resulted in Sudbury not receiving grants. In one example, the COD was not listed. PG mentioned it would be reiterated in meeting with Town Manager, Henry Hayes, that the COD should be involved in the application process and mentioned.

**Adjournment** KB moved to adjourn, LK seconded and the motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm