

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: April 8, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Remote via Zoom

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

Members Absent: None

Also present: Henry Hayes, Town Manager; Jennifer Roberts, COD Liaison Select Board (SB); Peg Espinola, Council on Aging (COA); Bob Lieberman, COA

1. Ms. Santangelo will record minutes.
2. Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Road, Sudbury. Ms. Faust stated she had received an email from an organized group in favor of returning to paper ballots. She expressed concerns to the Commission that this would not be good for sight impaired citizens.
3. The Commission reviewed and edited minutes from January 7, 2021. Ms. Santangelo moved to approve the minutes as edited. Mr. Frey Seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0 by roll call vote each member stating aye.
4. Ms. Guthy provided a financial update on the Commission's bank account through March 2021. Fiscal year-to-date there has been no activity and the balance of the account stands at \$15,595.27.
5. Ms. Bell has attended various meetings of Town groups and committees to inform and educate about the Town Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and the opportunity for citizens to provide input. She is also assembling an email list (currently at 19) of interested parties with whom she can communicate updates related to the Town and COD. Ms. Kouchakdjian suggested posting on Facebook (FB) to alert people to the list. Ms. Bell reported she has been actively posting to the COD FB page with some success: post on the Self-Evaluation reached 1,300 people; on Transportation grant, 940 people. Lastly, she reported the dates for the next sessions of the Access Avenue "virtual" sessions: Friday, April 9th at 7pm., Wednesday, April 21st at noon, Friday, April 30th at 7pm. She encouraged other Town organizations, including the Council on Aging to post information about these sessions for Sudbury citizens wanting information or support around issues of access or disability.

6. Mr. Frey reported that on 3/23 there was a joint meeting of the SB and the Transportation Committee, mostly centered on the emergency taxi program. Mr. Frey reminded the COD that 43% of the people using the services reported that they had a disability. He further stated that despite the recent grant award (Sudbury's portion is \$33,000) and the elimination of all non-medical appointment rides, the program will run out of funding before year end. Ms. Guthy stated that she thought it was important that the Town take a "big picture" approach to issues of transportation given the demonstrated need in a growing population of citizens.
7. Ms. Guthy introduced Ms. Randi Korn and formally stated her support of Ms. Korn as a new member of the Commission on Disability. Ms. Kouchackdjian made a motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Select Board recommending they accept the application of Ms. Korn to the COD. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote each member stating aye.
8. Ms. Guthy led a discussion on the composition of membership and recruitment to the COD in response to a written inquiry by Mr. Hayes on whether the current COD met the standards of the enabling regulations (MGL – Part I, Title 7, Chapter 40, Section 8J), including the requirement that an elected official be a member. Ms. Guthy presented her written response along with a summary of her conversation with Jeff Dougan, Massachusetts Office of Disability, regarding the interpretation and intent on composition and membership. It was agreed that the Sudbury COD is in compliance and further agreed that a Liaison from the Select Board fulfilled the elected official requirement.
9. The Commission next reviewed the newly revised Town of Sudbury Code of Conduct for Committees Whose Members are Appointed by the Select Board or Town Manager. After group discussion, and clarification provided by Mr. Hayes, the Commission had no issues with the Code. Ms. Kouchakdjian further suggested it would be helpful for new members of the COD to participate in the no-cost "Open Meeting Law training" that is held periodically.
10. It was agreed that Mr. Frey did a stellar job representing COD stakeholders on the Town Meeting Committee last year and would continue his role this year. Ms. Kouchakdjian agreed to act as his back-up.
11. Mr. Lieberman, representing the Council on Aging, thanked Ms. Guthy and Ms. Bell for helping to educate him on ADA and the Town Self-Evaluation in order to help that group prioritize and make recommendations regarding the 158 line items in the Fairbank assessment. Mr. Lieberman will make a presentation to the COA on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.
12. The Commission discussed the Cisco notification system failure that had resulted in the COD having numerous unreceived voice messages from

citizens and members of other Town groups. Ms. Guthy will contact Mr. Thompson, Town of Sudbury Technology Administrator and discuss the need for an alert when the system is down.

13. Ms. Guthy stated there would be a joint meeting of the SB and COD for presentation by the Institute for Human Centered Design of the Self-Assessment and Transition Plan with incorporation of town feedback. With all feedback due by April 14th, Ms. Roberts asked that the Commission do whatever it could to encourage stakeholders to weigh in on the posted documents.

Motion to Adjourn meeting by Ms. Santangelo. Seconded by Ms. Kouchackdjian. Motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote each member stating aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.