

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: March 4, 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

1. Ms. Kouchakdjian will record minutes.
3. The Commission heard item 3 prior to item 2, Ms. Beth Suedmeyer's presentation at the outset of the meeting regarding the Rail Trail. Ms. Suedmeyer shared that she works in the planning department of the town. She indicated that she would like to learn more about accessibility for all residents of Sudbury. Ms. Suedmeyer shared details regarding the proposed Rail Trail. She stated the entire project will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She stated the Trail will be a ten-foot-wide path that will comply with all slope and grade requirements. Commission members asked questions of Ms. Suedmeyer. Many questions posed to Ms. Suedmeyer concerned making sure that there was appropriate access to the Rail Trail. Other comments referenced making sure there was appropriate parking and restroom facilities along the Trail. Ms. Suedmeyer offered to return to the Commission at a future time to discuss the Rail Trail further.
2. Mr. Frey provided an update on the Transportation committee. He stated that eighty people had registered for the emergency taxi program, approximately 50% of which had disability. He indicated that the passenger volume was higher than expected by the Transportation Committee. Mr. Frey stated that for this reason, the Committee decided to pause the program and discuss other funding opportunities. Mr. Frey suggested that the Commission contact our Legislators to ask about The Ride. Ms. Bell suggested writing a letter to the Legislators to ask how we can improve transportation. The Commission discussed allocating some of its funds to support the taxi service. The Commission agreed to meet on short notice if the need arises to donate \$5,000 and provide temporary funding.
4. No public comment.
5. Ms. Kouchakdjian moved to approve Commission Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2021. Ms. Santangelo seconded the Motion. The Motion passed 5-0 by roll call voted:

Ms. Bell voting aye.

Mr. Frey voting aye.

Ms. Guthy voting aye.

Ms. Kouchakdjian voting aye.

Ms. Santangelo voting aye.

6. Upcoming meeting dates were confirmed by the Commission:

April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

May 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

June 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

7. The Commission discussed a letter drafted by Ms. Guthy in support of the candidacy of Ms. Jane Kline to become a member of the Commission on Disability. Ms. Kouchakdjian moved to approve the letter by Ms. Guthy. Ms. Bell seconded the Motion. The Motion passed by roll call vote each member stating aye:

Ms. Bell stating aye

Mr. Frey stating aye

Ms. Guthy stating aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian stating aye

Ms. Santangelo stating aye

8. Community Outreach: Ms. Bell reported to the Commission that she set up a COD Facebook page. She indicated that this page will help the Commission to take proactive steps to solicit feedback from the community regarding the self-assessment. The Commission discussed communication regarding the self-assessment. There was consensus that a two-week period of time for feedback is not sufficient. Ms. Guthy will contact the ADA Coordinator in Amherst to see how long their process took. Ms. Bell stated there must be clear and open communication. Ms. Bell also mentioned that she would like to conduct open door socials via Zoom called Access Avenue.
9. With regard to the self-evaluation, Ms. Guthy reported to the Commission that she has gone through all of the documents. She requested of Commission members that they also go through all of the documents.
10. The Commission tabled their discussion on goals.

Ms. Kouchakdjian moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Frey. Motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote each person stating aye:

Ms. Bell stating aye

Mr. Frey stating aye

Ms. Guthy stating aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian stating aye

Ms. Santangelo stating aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.