

Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 5/6/21 6:30 pm

Location: via Zoom Webinar

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

Members Absent: None

BOS Liaison Attendee: Jennifer Roberts

Public Commenters/Guests: David Correia, MetroWest Independent Living Center

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

Welcome New Member KB welcomed Randi Korn as a new member of the COD. KB read our Mission Statement and each member shared their personal background info as did Randi, who has a strong educational background that includes helping those with mental and physical disabilities.

Accessible Massachusetts Bill KB introduced Dave Correia, of the MWILC to discuss the Accessible Mass Bill. Dave said the original 17 yr old bill has been split into two pieces (Workplaces and Housing) and reviewed the Accessible workplace bill (H 2419) which is the main current focus.

LK moved to support H 2419, CS seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

There is also a need to get people out of nursing homes, but there is little available accessible housing. The Accessible Housing bill is H 2420. Lk moved to support H 2420, RK seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Dave is looking to get support from towns like Sudbury. Hudson and Framingham have given support.

There is a need for unity in support. All 10 of the state's independent living centers need to make a push.

LK asked Dave to give us an update on town issues. Dave said the Bullfinch plaza issues are still ongoing and we discussed Acapulco's tent covering several disabled parking spots.

Discussion of 4/27/21 Joint Meeting with Select Board LK suggested we meet with IHCD consultants. PG mentioned she has 4 meetings scheduled with Henry Hayes and is awaiting a report to be delivered.

LK asked why LSRHS was not included in study and PG responded that it was because it is a regional high school and is not considered town property.

KB asked about Bethany Hadvab's question: are issues for people with cognitive issues being addressed? CS and RK asked what the role of the COD is in this process. LK suggested we have a 1 hour meeting with IHCD to discuss.

KB said she recalled hearing that changes from the project would go into the capital budget and will compete with other initiatives for funding. She suggested that rather than compete, accessibility should be included as part of all projects. KB said there were about 50 responses to the Self Evaluation survey with scattered results. PG suggested we look at IHCD's priorities and provide feedback.

CS asked Jen Roberts for her opinion of the meeting and Jen responded that the Select Board is awaiting additional information which is in the hands of the ADA administrators including the Town manager. Jen Roberts said the ADA needs need to be incorporated into the budgeting process and she hopes the COD is involved.

KB cited that Coolidge II has no grab bars in bathrooms/showers as an example of how the town needs to be more involved, including the Design Review Board.

PG suggested more ADA education to town departments and professional development for town employees. RK agreed it was a good opportunity for future conversations.

KB asked for volunteers for a work group to look at the results of the Self Evaluation survey and RK and LK volunteered.

LK moved to create a working group for the Self Evaluation transition process, KB seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

New DEI Group KB introduced the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) in town. PG supported the COD's involvement and all concurred. Jen Roberts mentioned the first meeting was 5/17. The time of day of the meetings was questioned. The COD will select a liaison to this group after a couple of DEI meetings, once time of meeting is determined.

Approval of Minutes The 2/4/21 minutes were reviewed and minor edits made. LK moved to approve 2/4/21 minutes, PG seconded and motion passed 5-0 with RK abstaining, as she was not on COD for meeting.

The 3/4/21 minutes were reviewed and minor edits made. LK moved to approve 3/4/21 minutes, CS seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with RK abstaining.

The 4/8/21 minutes were reviewed and minor edits made. LK moved to approve 4/8/21 minutes, RK seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

PG asked if COD had approved minutes of meeting with Select Board and the consensus was no. KB said she'd find minutes so the COD could vote to approve.

PG mentioned the 4/8/21 minutes should be sent to Leila Frank in Select Board office that will represent our signature.

Liaison and Other reports DF provided update on the Transportation Committee including the reinstatement of the Emergency Taxi program, rollout of the Uber ride program and an update on the new hours of the Senior Center van service.

LK provided LS School Committee update including graduation plans for LS students and pending bills regarding students with disabilities. Lincoln-Sudbury SEPAC is conducting a survey for students with disabilities or on an IEP. KB is working with SPS SEPAC which finds that socializing zoom socializing has been important to parents of students with special needs.

PG attended a brief Master Planning Committee meeting. KB commended PG on bringing the Mass Office on Disability to the Master Planning Committee.

Public Comment KB asked if there were any public comments. KB said Bethany Hadvab asked how she can participate in the COD meeting to address cognitive issues. KB suggested we add this topic to a future agenda and invite Bethany.

KB asked about progress on the Fairbanks Senior Center and Jen Roberts said there has been progress with planning. PG suggested the COD have a liaison to the Fairbanks Planning group.

LK suggested the COD be involved in the Sewataro Committee as well. KB commented that she has attended meetings and mentioned we could watch recordings. Jen Roberts said meetings may or may not be public and there has been one meeting of the Sewataro Subcommittee.

Future COD Meetings PG lead discussion on future COD meetings after the June meeting. It was agreed the COD would meet on 7/8/21 and 8/5/21 at 6 30pm.

Adjournment LK moved to adjourn, PG seconded, and the motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.