

Date and Time: 08/16/21 6:35 PM  
 Location: Webinar  
 Members Present: Kay Bell, Doug Frey, Pat Guthy, Chairperson, Randi Korn, Lisa Kouchakdjian,  
 Members Absent: Jane Kline, Caroline Santangelo  
 Also Present: Janie Dretler, Select Board Member

**Convene:** The regular meeting of the Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) was called to order by Pat Guthy at 6:37 PM. A quorum (at least of 4 of 7) was shown to be present by a roll call of attendance.

**1. Selection of Meeting Recorder:** Kay Bell was assigned to record minutes.

**2. Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Three sets of minutes were presented.

**VOTE** Ms. Bell moved and Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded: That we approve the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting as amended. Ms. Guthy, Mr. Frey, Ms. Kouchakdjian, and Ms. Bell voted in favor. Ms. Korn abstained. The motion carried.

- A typographical correction was offered and incorporated into the draft minutes for the April 27, 2021 joint meeting with Select Board (SB)

**VOTE** Ms. Kouchakdjian moved and Mr. Frey seconded: That we approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting as edited. Ms. Guthy, Mr. Frey, Ms. Kouchakdjian, and Ms. Bell voted in favor. Ms. Korn abstained. The motion carried.

- Corrections were offered and incorporated into the draft minutes for the June 3, 2021 regular meeting, as were suggestions for adding emphasis to key statements by making them **bold**.

**VOTE** Ms. Kouchakdjian moved and Ms. Korn seconded: That we approve the minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

It was noted that minutes for May 6, Jul 8, and Aug 5 are outstanding.

**4. Discussion, review, and joint editing of COD letter to Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools and approval of this letter to be sent to the appropriate parties:** Commission members offered edits and the draft letter was revised in a shared document.

**VOTE** Ms. Kouchakdjian moved and Mr. Frey seconded: That Ms. Guthy be authorized to sign send the letter as revised on behalf of the Commission to Sudbury Schools Superintendent Crozier. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**5. Updates:**

- **Transportation:** Mr. Frey reported that the committee got clarification about representation on the MetroWest Regional Transportation Authority (MWRTA). Last couple of years Mr. Paul Spooner of the MetroWest Center for Independent Living (MWCIL) has filled the spot for a person with a disability. May to July statistics show WAV rides for medical appointments by Tommy's Taxi and a huge increase in use of the Uber program. Taxi rides are more costly to the budget than Uber. Using Uber can be hard for riders without a credit card or smart phone. Staff are working with individuals to get through those issues.

- Accessible parking: Ms. Guthy reported connecting with Chief Nix. He is reminding officers to be alert to compliance with accessible parking.
- Monthly meeting with Town Manager: Ms. Guthy reported that at the July 28 meeting they mentioned sensitivity training at The Coolidge housing development regarding acceptance of accommodations afforded people with disabilities. Ms. Guthy inquired about the final report of the Self Evaluation.
- Smile Playground at Haskell Field: Ms. Guthy and Ms. Kouchakdjian reported that portions of the pour-in-place surfaces are in bad condition, posing safety hazards. They contacted the Town Manager with that information and have not heard back from him about where these issues are on the maintenance schedule. [Later in the meeting SB member Dretler confirmed that Article 29 of the most recent Town Meeting passed, and it provides \$285,000 to the rehabilitation of Haskell Smile Playground.]
- Wayside Plaza inaccessible ramp: Ms. Guthy reported that the condition of the accessible route there has worsened. She contacted Mr. Correa at the MWCIL who said he has sent his concern about this to the Town Building Inspector, Mr. Andy Lewis. Ms. Guthy brought this to the attention of the Town Manager as a safety concern as exits are obstructed by planters. Mr. Hayes said he would look into that.
- Girl Scout donation of bench to Sewataro: Ms. Guthy reported that the SB is looking into installing a second bench to be on an accessible route, as the memorial bench will be installed in a location not on an accessible route. [Later in the meeting SB member Dretler confirmed that the SB voted to accept the gift of a bench from the Girl Scouts and that the camp operator has committed to install accessible benches.]
- Ms. Guthy reported that the Town of Lincoln has established a relationship with the Eliot Center to provide free counseling services for adolescents experiencing anxiety due to the COVID pandemic. Town Social Worker, Ms. Hadvab has been informed. Ms. Kouchakdjian reported that the information came from Ms. Ramos at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to L-S SEPAC with a request for help pushing out the information.
- Ms. Guthy suggested forming a working group to organize a presentation to the whole community by Valerie Fletcher on the topic of brain-based disabilities. Ms. Guthy and Mr. Frey will participate in this working group.
- Ms. Guthy announced that a group has formed out of Smile Mass that is holding a Sneaker Prom as a social opportunity for young people who are out of high school but who still need social support. Susan Brown will provide information we can post on our website.
- Ms. Dretler asked that the COD post a link to the “Disability Etiquette, Tips on Interacting with People with Disabilities.”

## Adjourn

**MSV** Ms. Kouchakdjian moved and Mr. Frey seconded the motion to adjourn.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM

A true copy attest: Kathleen (Kay) F. Bell  
Meeting Recorder

September 2, 2021