

Sudbury Commission on Disability

Date: September 2, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Remote via Zoom

Confirm

Members Present: Kay Bell (Vice Chair), Path Guthy (Chair), Jane Kline, Randi Korn, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo

Members Absent: Doug Frey

Ms. Guthy called the meeting to order at 6:34

Jane Kline joined the meeting at 7:05 pm

1. Ms. Korn will record minutes for the meeting
2. Select a secretary for meeting- at last meeting we said we would have a rotation
 - a) Randi
 - b) Doug
 - c) Kay
 - d) Caroline
 - e) Lisa
 - f) Jane (check in with her)
3. Mr. Frey told Ms. Guthy that he will be moving out of town at beginning of year- Contributed so much to the committee and work so well with outside groups- loss to town
4. Public Comment:
 - a) Peg Espinola COD rep from Council in Aging glad to be here
 - b) Jennifer Roberts- Select Board- received an update on DEI commission. DEI expressed a desire to partner with other commissions. Ms. Guthy will discuss the liaison role to the commission, a non-voting advisory role. Ms. Bell asked for clarification on the role and responsibility.
 - c) Linda Faust expressed sadness about Doug leaving and cited issues to bring to the transportation committee, including questions on the Uber Grant. Also discussed need accessibility to zoom or other virtual meetings.
5. Review July 8, 2021 Minutes. Ms. Kouchakdjian took notes and minutes which were reviewed and amended. Ms. Bell motioned to accept the minutes of July 8 as amended, Ms. Kouchakdjian second. All voted aye. Minutes have been approved and accepted. Kay noted that we have to also approve minutes for August 16.
6. Updates
 - a) Transportation Committee- no updates this month
 - b) Town Manager –No standing meetings last Wednesday of the month as the town manager was on vacation. Select Board talking about Institute for Human Centered

Design (IHCD) transition plan –Ms. Guthy sent a note to the town manager asking if he has final evaluation report from IHCD. Ms. Guthy also inquired about the transition plan, recently released grant applications, and Disability Awareness month. Ms. Bell stressed that the work of the COD is crucial to the town and that this needs to be acknowledged.

- c) Coolidge Contact – Ms. Korn and Ms. Guthy are meeting with the Coolidge manager and assistant on Friday September 3, 2021.
 - d) Donated Bench at Sewataro- Select board accepted girl scouts’ donation of bench and are working on the accessibility of the bench. Jen Roberts clarified that there may be 2 benches and the property manager has offered to create an accessible bench area.
 - e) Loring Playground- Ms. Guthy and Ms. Kouchakdjian visited the playground. The handrail has been added to stairs, pathways are within guidelines for slope accessibility, and facilities are working on the back entrance near the upper playground. The rain caused installation to be behind schedule.
 - f) Response to COD letters to Town Manager and Facilities Director- no response currently, not even acknowledgement. Pat following up on Friday.
 - g) Disability Awareness Month- Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Bell discussed creating a media blast, a flag, notices on the town managers page, email blasts. COD suggested developing a packet of information to give the Select Board, para Olympics are going on and they could be highlighted. Ms. Kline suggested using the 375th anniversary Sudbury Facebook page, which she started, and people are still liking. Connection to the Companion bill- Freedom to get exercise. Ms. Santangelo brainstormed the following ideas: Flag color for Disability, Use Linked-in to raise awareness, coincide a Disability Awareness event with another town event. Give away disability flags pins.
7. Update on the working group with Valerie Fletcher (initial meeting). Valerie Bethany (SW), Chief Scott Nix will conduct a panel and make a presentation. There will be a follow-up workshop for people who are interested. Ms. Bell sent information to Bethany Hadvab and Valerie Fletcher. Ms. Fletcher is very interested. Mark Thompson the town tech/ IT person is interested in supporting the event. Event will have ASL interpreters.
- a. Randi to send interpreters information.
8. Discussion of COD partnership in Town Projects –
- a. The COD discussed how to implement this partnership:
 - b. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted COD has not been provided final report by town manager and that emails have not been returned.
 - c. COD discussed a more productive way to work with the town.
 - d. Ms. Guthy noted the town has real issues that must be addressed.
 - e. The COD discussed the impact on residents by the lack of partnership with the town.
 - f. COD affirmed its mission to represent silent voices – those who can’t speak for themselves.
 - g. Ms. Santangelo also notes that the COD focuses on disability as a civil right that must be addressed as other civil rights are addressed.
 - h. Ms. Bell stated the Self Evaluation is not given enough priority-
 - i. Ms. Kline made the point that not building to ADA regulations in the first place requires the town to spend more in the long run to fix. Town needs to look at whole picture and address needs of whole community.

- j. Action Plan ideas: Work with select board to understand issues. Use the state mandate to incite action. Group discussed how to report to the Select Board in a way that is effective.
 - k. The group is in agreement that the COD take action. Ms. Guthy suggested 3 people to devise a plan; write a letter to the Board of Selectmen with defined outcomes and then meet together to review the plan and put into action. Ms. Guthy will write the letter.
9. Working Groups-
- a. Ms. Bell suggested that workgroups are productive, especially with well-defined tasks. COD needs a workgroup for:
 - i. The Valerie Fletcher presentation.
 - ii. Advocacy to town manager.
 - b. Ms. Santangelo noted workgroups can produce really good work such as letters to Town Manager and Director of Facilities.
 - c. Ms. Kouchakdjian suggested small working groups and sub-committees for the most effective work.
 - d. Ms. Kouchakdjian also suggested that sub-committee should use state parameters as a guide.
 - i. Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Bell volunteered to work on by-laws.
10. An interim meeting is set for Monday Sept 20 at 6:30. Focus is to decide how we move concerning the COD action. Ms. Bell will schedule.

Motion to adjourn by Kouchakdjian. Ms. Santangelo seconded the motion to adjourn. Members voted by roll call vote:

Ms. Korn voted aye

Mr. Frey voted aye

Ms. Bell voted aye

Ms. Guthy voted aye

Ms. Kline voted aye

Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.