

Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 11/04/21 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present: Pat Guthy, Co-chair, Kay Bell, Co-chair, Doug Frey, Randi Korn, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo

Members Absent: Jane Kline

BOS Liaison: J. Roberts

Other Attendees: P. Magnanti, Sudbury Lions Club, Peg Espinola, Lynn Puorro

Ms. Guthy called the meeting to order at 6:44 PM and Ms. Santangelo was selected as recorder.

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the minutes from meetings on 9/2, 9/20 and 10/7, respectively.

9/2: On a motion from Ms. Kouchakjian and seconded by Ms. Guthy, minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

9/20: On a motion from Ms. Bell and seconded by Ms. Kouchakjian, minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

10/7: On a motion made by Ms. Kouchakjian and seconded by Ms. Santangelo, minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Discussion and Vote to Approve new Applicant to COD: P. Guthy introduced and strongly supported Karyn Jones, 27 Pendleton Road, Sudbury, as a candidate to be recommended to the Select Board and Town Manager for appointment to the Commission on Disability.

Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion that P. Guthy write a letter to said parties on behalf of the Commission that Ms. Jones be appointed to the COD. Ms. Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COD Liaison to the DEI Commission: The Commission discussed who might be a good candidate for this with Ms. Roberts clarifying that the role is meant to be “an advisory member” of the DEI Commission rather than just a “report back” liaison. Ms. Kouchakdjian suggested that the COD postpone the discussion and decision until such time as Ms. Jones can participate and be considered.

Ms. Bell made a motion for this discussion to be tabled until a future meeting. Ms. Korn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

“Valerie Fletcher” Working Group Update: Ms. Bell reported that she and Ms. Guthy hosted a pre-meeting “meet and greet” with Ms. Fletcher, Institute for Human Centered Design; Ms. Hadvab, Town Social Worker; and Chief Nix in advance of the November 10th COD-sponsored educational seminar, “Creating a Welcoming Community for People with Brain-Based Disabilities”. Promotion via flyer, email and social media is being executed. ASL interpreters will be available for the event and attendance is hoped to be strong. Ms. Bell said that the group is already considering a second workshop-based event if there is continued interest within the Town. Ms. Guthy recognized Ms.

Bell for her great efforts to bring this seminar together in service to the Town and its many stakeholders. All members of the Commission concurred.

Wrap Ups:

Sensitivity Training. On October 26th about 35 people attended the COD-sponsored workshop at the Coolidge conducted by Dr. Daniel Newman, Executive Director, Disability Support Services, Lesley University on the ADA and its history. Potential for a follow-up workshop if there is community interest.

Disability Awareness Month. LS and Sudbury school and the overall community were tremendously engaged in our “pin drive”. To date 751 pins were distributed and 257 remain. The COD still plan to engage in the process of applying to the USPS for the creation of a Disability Flag stamp and discussions are already underway for activities for next October.

Municipal Minute. Ms. Bell recorded a Municipal Minute with Town Manager Henry Hayes that was posted online and on social media. All members of the Commission commended Kay for all of the work she does getting our message of education, inclusivity and resources out to the community.

Updates:

Transportation. Mr. Frey stated that the Committee is creating a business plan for their December meeting that would include low/med/hi service levels and related costs for the Town to review and decide on investment. Other topics included possible service to Metco parents and families and the current number of cab and Uber rides for the year – approximately 2000.

Monthly Meeting with Town Manager. Updated Mr. Hayes on Sensitivity Training workshop, new applicants to COD and discussed Town Self-evaluation/Transition Plan, including how the Town will prioritize. Discussion ensued on the Fairbanks Community Center as the design phase is coming to an end. There is an upcoming meeting on 11/22 between the COD, Mr. Hayes and the Select Board to discuss outstanding issues and concerns related to these projects.

Attendance at other Meetings: Ms. Bell attended the Chamber of Commerce Awards Meeting at the Wayside Inn where she was welcomed by the group. Ms. Bell and Ms. Guthy attended the Lions Club Meeting, where we also have a mutually supportive partnership, in synch with the Lion’s mission of eradicating blindness. There is an upcoming SEPAC meeting on 11/18 on the Development of Comprehensive Support Systems that both Ms. Kouchakjian and Ms. Bell will attend/participate in.

Bylaws Working Group. After discussion, Ms. Bell moved that the COD form a subcommittee to examine our bylaws to draft and recommend needed amendments. Ms. Kouchakjian seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Guthy made a motion that Ms. Kouchakjian and Ms. Bell be appointed to this subcommittee. Ms. Kouchakjian seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Review of COD Letter to SPS: A discussion ensued around the drafted letter and amendments made. Ms. Bell made a motion that the letter be accepted as amended and sent to Mr. Crozier with a copy to the Select Board by Ms. Guthy on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Kouchakjian seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

COD Financials: There is currently \$15,395.29 in the handicapped parking fund. After payment of expenses related to ASL translation for the upcoming seminar, the balance will be approximately \$12,900.

Adjournment: Ms. Kouchakjian moved to adjourn, and Ms. Korn seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM

[Note: approved on January 20, 2022]