



Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Open Meeting

1. Kay Bell, Chair, read remote meeting protocols and called the virtual meeting to order at 7:42 PM.
2. Kay took a roll call of those present: Randi Korn, Liesje Quinto, Kay Bell
3. Members absent: Jane Kline, Karyn Jones
4. Liesje Quinto will take minutes.
5. Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Discussion / Potential Action

1. Kay reviewed a thread of cordial correspondence among a concerned citizen, Pat Guthy, who is an experienced poll worker, and multiple town staff in which concerns about parking conditions and passageway clearances at the Fairbank community Center polling place were discussed.
2. Kay had visited the site recently and more parking spaces have been designated. It was not explicitly stated in correspondence how arrangements for passageway clearances would be worked out, but the final message sent by Town Building Inspector Lewis stated, "The entrance to the senior center and the new entrance to the building is accessible. I will check on the egress from the voting area and the path of travel back to the parking lot next week."
3. Liesje expressed appreciation that Ms. Guthy employed so much attention to detail because for many, those things mean nothing, but for others who may need it (*for example, if using a wheelchair*) even a simple thing like a chair having been moved out of the way at the voting table is more welcoming, makes you feel you're included.
4. The commission discussed having Kay compose a letter to all parties including the following points: how important access to voting is; appreciation of Ms. Guthy's being proactive and her attention to detail (table height and clear

access); compliment staff's prior work on making voting accessible; acknowledge the continuing attention to the passage clearance in the hallway; appreciate the collaborative effort on the issues.

5. Pat Brown was recognized as an attendee. She announced that the Select Board had approved her appointment to be a member of the Commission on Disability on this same evening. Members offered congratulations.
6. Liesje made a motion that Kay compose a letter including the items discussed and that she send it to all parties who had been included in the prior communications. Randi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.
7. Liesje shared her concern based on frequent experience that when parking is at a premium some people think that if they stay in their car while parked in an accessible spot without a handicapped parking placard that it's OK. But it's not OK for the person with a disability to have to get out of their car and have to go to another driver and ask them to move. She imagined that could become an issue on a busy voting day.
8. Kay suggested parking concerns could be included as a future agenda item.

Adjournment

Liesje made a motion to adjourn. Randi seconded. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM.



Date: August 31, 2022

Subject: Appreciation of vigilance and collaboration

Dear Ms. Pat Guthy and Town Clerk Ms. Beth Klein,

On August 30, the Sudbury Commission on Disability met to discuss the series of communications initiated by you, Ms. Guthy, on August 19 and all the ensuing emails from you, Ms. Klein, that discuss several concerns related to arrangements for the upcoming voting during construction at the Fairbank Community Center polling place. Members asked me to express the following:

The Sudbury Commission on Disability considers equal voting access for citizens living with disabilities to be of top priority among the panoply of activities that must be accessible for full and equal participation in community life in Sudbury.

We greatly appreciate the attentiveness Ms. Guthy has demonstrated as a poll worker noticing details such as the need for adding accessible parking and the need to have adequate passing space in the hallway as voters will use it to get to the gym from the entrance and to get to the exit when leaving. Ms. Guthy's proactive and specific outreach to the Town Clerk set into motion helpful adjustments to the special preparations that were already underway or in place for voting day.

We note that responses, actions, and communications involved Interim Town Manager Bilodeau, Combined Facilities Director Duran, Inspector of Buildings Lewis, Senior Center staff, and Sudbury Public Schools administrative staff. This exemplifies an "it takes a village" collaborative effort to make the fundamental activity of voting accessible to all Sudbury citizens, including those who live with disabilities.

The Sudbury Commission on Disability thanks you, Ms. Guthy and Ms. Klein, and all of the staff members involved in this effort. And we would be remiss if we did not also express our gratitude for the many poll workers who will soon be

serving the community in two polling locations for both the September and November elections.

On behalf of the Sudbury Commission on Disability and with deep appreciation,

Kay Bell, Chair

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The office of the Secretary of State of Massachusetts has determined that most communications to and from municipal officials are public records. No confidentiality should be expected.

Cc:

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau

Combined Facilities Director Duran

Inspector of Buildings Lewis

Senior Center Director Galloway

Sudbury Public Schools Superintendent Crozier

Police Chief Nix

Select Board

Council on Aging

COD members