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**Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Agenda  
February 19, 2025 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

**Join URL:** <https://zoom.us/j/86958120920>

**Dial-in:** 978-639-3366 or 470-250-9358

**Meeting ID:** 869 5812 0920

**Open Meeting (10 minutes)**

1. Convene with quorum. Roll call, read protocols
2. Select minutes recorder (Rota: Cam, Liesje, Karyn, Cheryl)
3. Public Comment

**Updates/Action Items/Discussion (50 minutes)**

1. Vote to approve any outstanding meeting minutes: October 2024, Jan 2025
2. Sudbury's Annual PRIDE Day event at Curtis Middle School on Sunday, June 8th, 2-6pm
3. Update: Transportation Committee (Cheryl)
4. Letters of support for remote options and remote participation in municipal meetings. Opposing the provision in the Governor's bill, HD4360. (see supporting materials below)
5. Cam emailed Town Manager on 2/14/25 for an update about Lisa North joining the COD (Cam)
6. Featured Speaker or Event in 2025 (All)
7. Accessible bikes. How other towns are allowing residents to access the bikes, their process for taking them out and returning, etc. Connecting with the Rail Trail group and Parks and Rec. Potential for a grant? (Karyn)
8. Accessible Trick or Treat - ongoing (Liesje)

**Close Meeting (10 minutes)**

1. Future Agenda Items and decide on next month meeting topics
  - Sally Hild and Laura Mattei of Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) to discuss the All Persons Walkway at Wolbach Farm

2. Review Action Items and Confirm Next Mtg Dates
3. Adjourn

These agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Commission to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other related items, not listed, may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by the Open Meeting Law.

### **Supporting Materials Provided**

List what we anticipate will be presented/referred to. In minutes a complete list is required.

We would like you to oppose the provision in the Governor's bill, HD4360 An Act empowering municipalities and local governments, that would give municipalities the option to allow remote access to meetings covered by the open meeting law. The COD thinks it is important to require hybrid access or at least remote access to such meetings. For that reason, we urge you instead to support HD368 An Act to modernize participation in public meetings, that requires public meetings to be accessible both physically and remotely. We understand that the pandemic emergency provision that permitted remote access to public meetings will expire March 31, but we would prefer an extension of that deadline to allow consideration of HD368 rather than a quick adoption of a local option to meet that deadline.

Statement from COD why we think this is important.

## **Advocates say Governor's Proposal Will Close the Open Meeting Law**

*Municipal Empowerment Act Would Limit Public Participation*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2025

CONTACTS:

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BOSTON - Today, the Governor filed the [Municipal Empowerment Act](#). A coalition of democracy, disability access, and open government advocates expressed strong concerns about the bill's consequences for access to local government meetings. The proposal would make the format of local open meetings completely discretionary instead of

maximizing access by reasonably guaranteeing hybrid public meetings with both in-person and remote access.

**The ACLU of Massachusetts, Boston Center for Independent Living, Disability Law Center, Common Cause Massachusetts, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association, MASSPIRG, New England First Amendment Coalition, and New England Newspaper & Press Association released the following joint statement in response to the bill:**

*“The Municipal Empowerment Act again falls short on ensuring reasonable access to public meetings. It will shut people out of the democratic process by only allowing — and not requiring — municipalities to provide hybrid participation options. This is a core principle of a democratic process, and for disabled people and others, a fundamental civil rights issue. Giving every government body complete discretion about how to provide public access to their meetings means people with disabilities, the elderly, people who lack access to transportation, and others who are simply unable to access in-person meetings will be completely shut out when city councils, select boards, or school committees decide to hold meetings exclusively in person.”*

**Background:**

To date, the House has already passed forward-thinking legislation that would have guaranteed hybrid participation by entities under the Open Meeting Law. The Senate has yet to debate the matter.

In spring of 2023, the coalition conducted a survey of every city council, select board, and school committee in the state. According to that survey, more than half of those bodies are already conducting fully hybrid or remote-only access. Indeed, hybrid meetings are already standard operating procedure for many government entities in municipalities of every size, from Boston to Gosnold.

- City councils and select boards: 45% of city council and select board meetings are fully hybrid and 17% more are live streamed. In total, 62% are fully hybrid or live streamed.
- School committees: 35% of school committee meetings are fully hybrid and 25% are live streamed. In total, 60% are fully hybrid or live streamed.

The coalition supports a legislative proposal [HD.368](#) filed by Representative Tony Cabral that will ensure greater access to open meetings for everyone—particularly for people with disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, or limited transportation—by requiring options for officials and members of the public to attend meetings in person or remotely.

**Running List of Future Agenda Items - Review at Meetings and Edit List as Needed**

- 1.) Quarterly review of finances; establish and review parameters for expenses
- 2.) Sandra Duran - invite for quarterly updates, at least
- 3.) Goals and action items generated by goals and initiatives
- 4.) Key Dates:
  - a.) January: annual report due
  - b.) April: review member terms (member terms go through May)

- c.) July: Disability Pride Month, a month-long celebration to commemorate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- d.) October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month