

Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – October 16, 2025

Liesje Quinto called the meeting to order with roll call at 8:21PM

Members present: Liesje Quinto, Cheryl Wallace, Karyn Jones, Bessie Struck

Others present: Annika Hardy

Transportation Update

Cheryl shared an update on her participation in a transportation fair held at the Sudbury Senior Center from 1:00–3:00 PM. She distributed flyers to local businesses and spoke with residents regarding transportation and accessibility concerns. Cheryl noted some confusion among residents regarding the naming of Sudbury’s transportation services and shared updates on extended hours for Catch Connect and changes to the Uber voucher program. The Transportation Committee also interviewed a company that provides wheelchair-accessible vans. Cheryl reported strong attendance and engagement at the fair.

Accessible Trick-or-Treat Update

Cheryl provided an update on planning for the accessible trick-or-treat event. Over **\$5,000** in sponsorships have been secured. New tablecloths, volunteer t-shirts, and **50 yard signs** have been ordered. Cheryl will finalize orders for non-edible treats by the end of the week and has continued distributing promotional flyers throughout the community.

Interview – Annika Hardy

The Commission interviewed Annika Hardy, a recent Smith College graduate currently working at Advocates in their Brain Injury Services program. Annika shared her academic background in psychology and German, her involvement in the Pathways to Inclusive Healthcare program, and her professional experience supporting individuals with disabilities. She expressed interest in joining the Commission to advocate for accessibility and equity in Sudbury.

Commission Vote – Appointment

A motion was made to appoint Annika Hardy to the Sudbury Commission on Disability.

Motion passed unanimously.

Karyn – Yes

Cheryl – Yes

Liesje - Yes

The Commission noted that while members are not required to have personal experience with disability, representation ratios must be confirmed with Andy prior to final appointment.

Adaptive Bike Event

The Commission discussed an upcoming adaptive bike event scheduled for Saturday October 25th, with 32 participants currently registered. All Out Adventures requested an accessible portable toilet for the event. Volunteer availability was discussed; Liesje confirmed partial availability, while Karyn noted a scheduling conflict due to a cheer competition. Karyn will reach out to LS and Ben for additional volunteer support. Cheryl shared plans to promote the event through Avalon Sudbury and personal social media channels.

Town Warrant Article

Karyn presented a draft non-binding disability inclusion resolution, modeled after similar language used in Lexington, affirming the Town's commitment to considering the rights and needs of people with disabilities in decision-making processes. Liesje and Cheryl expressed support for the draft. Karyn will circulate the resolution to the group for further review. Liesje agreed to contact Charlie Russo, the COD liaison to the Select Board, to discuss the process for advancing a potential warrant article. The Commission plans to revisit the resolution and consider a vote at a future meeting.

Future Planning & Grants

The Commission discussed future programming and grant opportunities. The group received an \$11,000 Sudbury Foundation grant to support adaptive bike events planned in 2026 for spring, summer, and fall. Members discussed brainstorming future speakers and events while prioritizing upcoming bike programming. Karen confirmed arrangements for a portable toilet for an upcoming event. Liesje offered to contact Tufts students through Ben to support volunteer recruitment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, November 18 at 8:30 PM**. Agenda items will include review of warrant articles, recap of October events, and discussion of Sudbury Adaptive Rides programming.

Liesje made a motion to adjourn. Cheryl Wallace seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned.