

## **Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes**

### **Meeting Date – August 20, 2025**

Liesje Quinto called the meeting to order with 8:27PM

**Members present:** Liesje Quinto, Cheryl Wallace, Karyn Jones

**Others present:** Jane Kelty (Council on Aging), Sandra Duran (ADA Coordinator / Combined Facilities Director)

### **Initial Discussion**

Following roll call, Jane Kelty from the Council on Aging joined the meeting to express interest in serving as a liaison to the Commission on Disability. Jane shared her background as a retired nurse and volunteer at the Senior Center, including her role in reopening the medical supply closet.

### **Transportation Update & Halloween Event**

Cheryl provided an update on **Catch Connect**, noting that service hours have expanded to **8:00 AM–6:00 PM** to improve access for employment-related transportation. The service will remain free through **June of next year**.

The group discussed progress on the accessible Halloween event. Over **\$4,000** in donations have been received, and the Commission discussed authorizing expenditures of up to **\$4,500**.

### **ADA Self Assessment Updates – Sandra Duran**

Sandra provided updates on multiple accessibility-related projects:

- The Flynn Building ramp project will be resolicited with modifications to the RFP.
- Improvements to the Nixon School parking lot are scheduled for October.
- Security upgrades at Nixon School include proposed vestibules and accessible walkways, with design quotes currently being solicited.
- Accessibility improvements at Nixon School include new accessible sinks, cafeteria tables, and temporary ADA-compliant surfaces in the courtyard.
- The Hanes School roof project exceeds the 30% capital improvement threshold and will trigger ADA compliance requirements.
- A collaborative project with the Thursday Garden Club is underway to enhance Grinnell Park with accessible seating and pathways.

### **ADA Compliance Projects**

Sandra shared updates on ongoing ADA compliance work across Town facilities, including fall design plans and recent improvements at Camp Sewataro. While some funding remains from prior ADA warrant articles, additional funding will be needed for larger projects such as Nixon Courtyard and Loring. Sandra committed to providing updated fund balance information and outlined plans for upcoming community workshops to gather input on the Haskell Field project, emphasizing the importance of lived experience in design.

### **Bessie Struck Reappointment**

The Commission discussed Bessie Struck's reapplication to the Commission on Disability. Bessie shared that she now has the time available to serve on the COD.

A motion was made to recommend Bessie Struck for appointment to the Commission on Disability. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Town Meeting Warrant Article**

The Commission discussed the possibility of drafting a non-binding resolution to promote disability inclusion in Town decision-making, modeled after Article 30 from Lexington, MA. Karyn suggested drafting language, while Liesje raised concerns about the limitations of non-binding resolutions. Cheryl noted that while such resolutions do not create legal obligations, they can provide symbolic support and be referenced in future advocacy. The group agreed that a resolution could help reinforce inclusive practices, even if it does not guarantee outcomes.

### **Adaptive Bike Event**

Karyn provided updates on the adaptive bike event, including a draft registration page and outreach plans through Sudbury Weekly and local commissions. The event provider offers bikes for all ages, though families were encouraged to contact the provider directly for specific needs.

The event is scheduled for October 22–25, from 11:00 AM–3:00 PM. Karyn will continue to manage marketing and registration. Due to a scheduling conflict, Karyn may be unable to attend in person. Liesje and potentially Cheryl offered to assist, and non-COD volunteers may staff the information table if needed.

### **Recruitment & Interview Planning**

The Commission noted that a new membership application has been received. Interviews will be scheduled for the next meeting, following the previously used format. Members agreed to prepare three standard interview questions:

1. Tell us about yourself
2. Why are you interested in serving on the Commission?
3. Share an example of advocacy work

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for **October 16 at 8:15 PM..**

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

**Meeting adjourned.**

*Minutes submitted by Liesje Quinto*