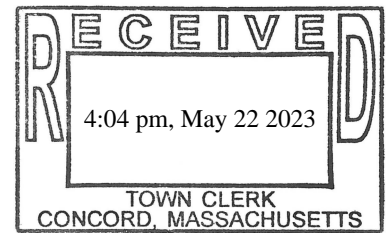


Concord Commission on Disabilities
Minutes Feb. 9, 2023



Jean Goldsberry, chair

Janet Beyer, MaryBeth Barker, Jennifer Brooke, Karen Young, Bob Andrews, Meryl Schwartz, Lloyd Price

Guests: Joe Palumbo, Linda Escobedo, Grazia de la Cruz, Toni Moyer

Meeting called to order 5:03

MaryBeth moved to accept the minutes pending typo fix.

Jennifer seconded

Approved

Sudbury Road traffic light by library

Jean talked to Alan Cathcart. He deferred to Complete Streets Study in progress. He thought nothing would be done until that study is complete. Estimated cost could be upwards of \$25,000.

Jennifer: Complete streets is not just Concord. She believes we will not get action on this until complete study is done. Once the study is done we should engage with it and help the Town prioritize from our perspective.

Jean we will put this on the list to revisit.

Transportation from Emerson

Jean contacted Acton Commission chair. She has met with Emerson Hospital staff. Emerson has found a provider and funds. It appears that through Acton

advocacy and our involvement we have a solution to the problem of getting people home from the emergency room.

Working with Concord's DEI committee

Joe Palumbo: With diversity we are talking about a range: disability, age, gender. He can send us contact information and we can send data and needs.

MaryBeth: I filled out the survey and I realized that the people who filled the criteria of other are service workers.

Joe: We must hear from people who come into Town every day.

Jean: On our staff a large number comes from other countries.

Joe: the second piece: There is a lot to get done. We would like to put a warrant on next year's Town meeting asking the town to hire a full-time diversity director. We want to create a system for registering incidents.

Jean will send a link to the Commission for the survey.

Linda: The Town has done a survey about households and found that 39 % or more speak a language plus English.

Jean: I recommend the presentation: Who We Are. It will be presented at Fowler and First Parish. Also available on Netflix.

MaryBeth: I saw it in Carlisle and there is a benefit to seeing it with other people.

Ideas on ways to work with Chamber of Commerce

Jean: Beth Williams, Concord tourism director, is interested in working with us at 2025 Concord anniversary.

Lloyd: I was going to be looking into three things:
Availability for housing for people visually impaired
Transportation

How people can get into stores.

Regarding visual: Other than closed captions I don't believe there is any provision for people who are visually impaired

This is for Town meeting and any other meetings in Town.

Transportation from Emerson: I reached the coordinator at Emerson. She said it is a problem and there is not a reliable way to deal with it. We should ask the COA about services. Police can sometimes provide transport.

How can we publicize what Acton has learned?

Bob suggested we use Concord Bridge to publicize problem and need. He will draft a letter with Jean.

Jennifer: It would be important to highlight that people should not defer going to the hospital because of problem getting home.

Mary Beth: Maybe we don't know enough about this, e.g. how do electric wheelchairs get in the vehicle. She thinks we need more information.

Jean; Yes let's put it on hold and not send a letter until we get more information

Lloyd: Disability access for stores that will never be accessible. He was directed to Marcia who is owner of Revolutionary store.

Jennifer : Accessibility has visibility right now and I think there is interest on the part of the Town and business owners. Every business should have its own strategies, some to the letter and some to the spirit of the law.

Discussion: What is required of businesses.

Lloyd it is important to determine who the owner of the property is.

It was agreed to divvy up the businesses around town.

Karen suggested we have list of questions for each store so that we are asking the same questions.

Mary Beth: A group can come up with a list of questions and we should form a subcommittee

The committee has to abide by open meeting law.

Jennifer: Regarding the Concord Centennial

Jean; We could invite Beth Williams to come to our next meeting and ask her plans regarding accessibility.

Mary Beth Re: Accommodating people with low vision at Town Meeting. It would be easy for me to raise this at the regional disability commission.

Jean: Best Western is going to become an emergency shelter for people who are homeless. Many rooms have been rented until June. There will be people with disabilities. We should reach out to that group.

Linda: Check out town website for updated information. It isn't clear how long they will be there. We don't know at this point who we are getting. The Town Manager has talked with the Lt. Gov. She recommends we refer to updates on Town website

Jean: 50 families from Concord are housed at Devens.

Next meeting Thursday March 9

Zoom

Meeting adjourned 6:20