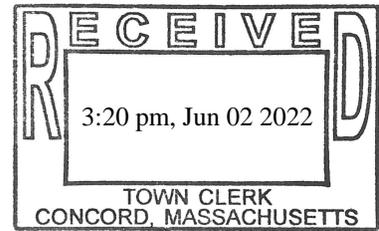


Commission on Disabilities

Thursday, Feb 17, 2022



Members:

Jean Goldsberry, chair; Janet Beyer, clerk; MaryBeth Barker, Susan Bates, Bonnie Albright, Lloyd Price, Meryl Schwartz, Karen Young

Guests: Phillip Posner, Mellissa Church, Becky Robichaud, Kate Hodges, Carol Yellen

Meeting called to order 5 p.m.

Approval of December 9, January 2021 minutes

Regarding transportation from Emerson Hospital for people who are brought to the ER by ambulance.

Jean has no new information

Susan reported on Town's transportation committee. Discussion at last meeting focused on ARPA money being put into transportation.

Junction Village: Mary Beth: The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee's survey got 500 to 600 responses. There is a meeting Feb. 17 and they will discuss results of that survey. They are holding two public forums. At tonight's meeting they will discuss that forum.

The question was asked if the trail could be rerouted behind the Mexican restaurant in the plaza.

Susan: A number of options were discussed and one was rerouting.

Jean: One of our group homes is on the trail and man who owns it built a path to the trail.

Karen: at one point there was a discussion about keeping the same path and having part of it dedicated for bikes.

White Pond: Kate Hodges In an attempt to save as many trees as possible the path was shifted a bit. Kate presented a slide presentation of new plans for White Pond.

June 1 is the expected completion date. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned.

Reformatory Brook Trail: Phil Posner. Phil is a member of the Transportation Committee, but comments are his own. He has submitted a petition for Town Meeting approval to appropriate a sum of money to conduct a feasibility study for updates to the Reformatory Branch Trail. The trail follows unused railroad tracks that originally went from Cambridge to Concord by Great Meadows and ended at MCI Concord. Plans are underway for improvements to the trail in Bedford.

The improvements will provide access to people who have mobility challenges. To improve access they need people with experience in that field. They need funding because, Phil said, this is a resource people treasure but needs to be made accessible. We need to include professionals from the start.

Phil detailed proposed changes to the trail.

Jean: At our next meeting we will take a vote on our opinion about this.

Phil will send further information to Jean.

It was agreed that we as individual citizens can support or not but must identify ourselves as private citizens.

Request for funds for an interpreter for CCHS musical

Bonnie Albright: Jennifer and I have looked at ways to use the funds from parking meter fines. We have about \$5500 We cannot give this to the Community Chest because they cannot take earmarked funds. We need a formal way to assess applications.

The recommendation she discussed with Kate: We could have an application deadline of September and decide in January. And this year advertise July through September for applications.

CCHS theater group: Our timing isn't going to match their timing, but we welcome their application for funds.

Kate: If you send information to me, I will see if there are Town funds for that.

Meryl suggested the schools put a line item in their budget.

Jean update: architectural access board looked at the office spot that had their dumpster put in handicapped spot. A month later they sent another one. They have moved the dumpster, but the elevator was not working.

(Where is this office building?)

Jean: A member of the public contacted Jean to say that one part of new library connecting two rooms was too steep, Kate said it is compliant.

Meeting adjourned 6:30
Submitted Janet Beyer, clerk.