

COD Virtual Meeting via Google Meet. MINUTES, 26 Aug '20.

Present: Susan Dunderdale, Jamie Mazur, Tay Silveira, Johnstone Campbell

Absent: Larry Dubois. In his absence, Johnstone agreed to act as secretary.

AGENDA

1. Susan called the meeting to order at 4:56 p.m. Johnstone will send a card to Larry on the Commission's behalf.
2. Building Inspector Dave Gardner was unable to attend. Susan will ask him to attend our Sept. meeting. We need to get an update and details about the Town's progress on implementing the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, and to discuss the Commission's role.
3. Johnstone reported that the Virtual Platform Subcommittee recommended that the town use Zoom platforms for its virtual meetings. The Select Board unanimously accepted the recommendation. Mike Sullivan assured the Board that there was already money in the budget to cover the costs.

New Business

1. Susan reported that Matt Cowie has announced a grant deadline by the MA Office of Disability. The town is eligible to apply for monies to remove accessibility barriers and improve programmatic access. The deadline is October 9.

We discussed some of the complexities of programmatic access. Jamie and Tay identified a number of issues for people with "invisible" disabilities, such as lighting, color schemes, ASL signer; the list is long.

In order to contribute to the Town's grant proposal, we decided to hold the Sept. meeting earlier than normal at a time that Matt Cowie can attend, so that we can discuss where the Town stands in regards to the Transition Plan and to offer our suggestions about programmatic needs for the grant request.

We noted the need to coordinate our requests with the Director of the Town's Capital Campaign.

Susan will reschedule the Sept meeting to insure Matt's attendance and that we have a quorum.

2. Johnstone noted that the Town's present reliance on virtual meetings could require the availability of an Accessibility Resource Volunteer. The Commission recognized what could be a serious need, but left further discussion to be included in follow-up discussions.

3. Extensive discussion of the Draft Disability Survey followed. We reconfirmed the need for the questionnaire and thanked Susan for putting together such a comprehensive and good draft.

The discussion identified a few areas that we immediately adjusted to make the questions more inclusive. The Acting Secretary will incorporate the suggestions and submit the revised draft for further discussion at the next meeting.

We raised several issues related to the survey but not about its text. They are (in no particular order):

- a) ask the Town Manager about current projects underway and those planned for the immediate future;
- b) ask the Town Manager if there have been requests in the past for documents in Braille or for an ASL signer, for instance? If so, how were they handled?
- c) Is it possible or useful to compare our survey's findings with other data bases, such as census data?
- d) Susan is going to ask the Town Manager to establish an email account for the Commission, so that we can be contacted directly by residents; to establish a budget; and about a Zoom platform for the Commission.

Finally, in addition to topics for future discussions already raised we raised others. Tay raised the question of the various terms of service on the Commission. Johnstone mentioned the range of accessibility modifications in use by Power Point for meetings and documents.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Johnstone Campbell, Acting Secretary