

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 10/22/2020, 5:00 pm.

Present: Susan Dunderdale, Tay Silveira, Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubois, and Jamie Mazur.

Susan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of 09-15-2020 were approved as amended. Johnstone motioned and Jamie seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Susan gave an update on the mod grant. Mike Sullivan received input from multiple groups and it was decided to go with an accessible exercise path at the senior center. If that project fails to move forward he will look at other suggestions.

The commission reviewed their questionnaire. There was a short discussion on font size and for ADA large format printing. No consensus was met on what to do about large print at this time, but it should be reviewed at some time in the future. It was felt that the survey should be available both on the internet and in hard copy. Suggestions were made for the questionnaire and it was noted that we need a return address. Possibilities for drop boxes was also discussed. Larry motioned to move forward with survey with modifications and Johnstone seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Susan brought up how to increase the commission's visibility to let the public know how to contact us and what our mission is. One idea was to request John Hine put us on the town meeting agenda. A second idea was to create a video for the web page. Larry was to create a QR code for the group to use on documents.

The group went over the issues of terminology and the impact of different labels. The group talked about preferred terms, and the constantly changing vocabulary associated with describing abilities. It was decided that the group should try to develop a list of terms to be used by the group where possible and to keep the group in sync during discussions.

The group discussed the letter received from Dave Gardener and some of the input given to Dave. A concern was raised about power doors not being a requirement for commercial buildings.

Tay brought up that it appeared that accommodations for disabilities seemed to be lacking when voting. The group felt that an E-Mail to Mike Sullivan letting him know about the situation would be helpful. Johnstone brought up that we should be advocating for issues we see as opposed to waiting for a problem to occur. Susan to follow up with Mike Sullivan. Jamie had to leave the meeting at 6:00 during the discussion on accommodations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06. Larry motioned to adjourn and Tay seconded.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 18th @ 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)