

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 02/17/2021, 5:00 pm.

Present: Susan Dunderdale, Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, and Jamie Mazur. Guest speaker Jeffrey Dougan.

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

Reviewed minutes of 01/20/2021 and 02/10/2021. Johnstone moved to approve minutes and Jamie seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Susan reviewed the draft E-mail requesting status of the ADA coordinator. Revisions were made. Larry motioned to send the E-mail as amended and Johnstone seconded the vote to send the E-mail was unanimous. Susan will send the E-Mail from the group.

Susan gave an update on the status of the survey and how requests for printed copies would be handled. Corrections were made to the online survey, and the Town Administrator will send out printed copies. Jeffrey asked about the survey and would like to access it. Larry will send Jeffrey a link.

The members introduced themselves to Jeffrey and he took over the meeting to provide information on MOD (Massachusetts Office on Disability). Jeffrey discussed what the Municipal ADA Grant was and touched on the timeline for applying. Next Jeffrey went over the Emergency Preparedness program and the backpacks they supply. There was some discussion on emergency preparedness and the new reverse 911 system. MOD also provides a Community Access Monitoring training program,

Jeffrey went over creation and responsibilities of an ADA commission. The commission can, with town approval, use funds from violation of handicap parking to use for education and ADA improvements in town. Jeff went over the makeup of the commission and some of the town's expected interactions with the commission such as ADA variances and complaints. Jeffrey suggested having a meeting to go over the 10 goals of an ADA commission. (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/commission-on-disability-cod-general-description-goals-and-sample-bylaws/download>). There was a question as to who was the town's liaison to the commission.

Jeffrey let the commission know that there is now a IT Accessibility contract with the state under ITS61. The contract is designed to insure the elements of the town's website is accessible and meets state standards.

Requirements of Title II for the town was reviewed and Jeffrey went over the New England ADA reference document. (<https://www.adaactionguide.org/>) Jeffrey stated that town meeting should have an accessibility statement with all notices for town meetings.

Creation of an ADA action plan should involve the COD when created or modified. Jeffrey suggested meeting again after the commission has a chance to review the material he sent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 Larry motioned to adjourn and Johnstone seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 17th 5:00

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)