

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 03/17/2021, 5:00 pm.

Present: Susan Dunderdale, Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubious, Tay Silveira, and Jamie Mazur.
Guest speaker Viv Price.

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

Susan updated the group about the survey and that corrections have been made. Due to Google limitations, some changes had to be made to a couple other questions. Johnstone suggested that we frequently check on responses. Larry informed the group that Jeffrey Dougan from MOD had seen the survey and had commented that he thought the survey was well thought out. Jamie suggested ways to get the survey to school age students and parents.

Susan brought up the ADA swing that had been suggested by the friends of BBP and how to move forward with ADA compliant equipment for playgrounds. Susan talked about how Belchertown had accomplished building their Handicap accessible playground and she would look into that further. Viv brought up that an ADA compliant swing had been purchased, but it was clarified that the swing in question was for wheelchair access. The group felt that we should go forward with pushing for a Wheelchair accessible swing.

Tay stated that some accessibility features at the dog park were present and some could be improved. Tay said she would send to the Friends of the South Hadley Dog Park an email, and gave a summary of the email, essentially introducing the COD, Johnstone mentioned he happened to meet Brenda Mathieu, President of The Friends of the South Hadley Dog Park while he was at the park. One thing he mentioned was a dumpster situated such that it obstructed the HC accessible spot. There was discussion that the DP is a work in progress.

Tay mentioned Matt Cowie is still listed as the ADA Coordinator and recommended it be updated. There was concern that the listed extension would not reach Viv. Tay suggested the title, ADA Coordinator, be added with Viv Price's other titles so there would be no confusion for anyone who wanted to reach him in that role. Viv Price said he would ask Kristen to update the information on the website.

The subject of potential questions of the Town Administrator candidates was discussed. Susan told us that we can't participate directly in the interviews of the TA candidates, but that we can submit questions to her that she will forward to Chris Geraghty. Tay suggested a question asking how they would prioritize accessibility, in the presence of limited funding. Susan wanted to know personal and professional experience with disability.

Susan brought up the fact that we can get the fines levied for illegal parking in handicap spaces.

Viv explained that he also is facilities manager for some town building, Safety coordinator, and did some CAD work for the DPW. Viv went over his background in ADA compliance and that he hoped to get more training in the future. Johnstone asked what the process for contacting the town in the case of an ADA complaint. Viv said that the complaints came from differing sources dependent on the complaint. It was hoped that Viv could work to clarify the process in the future. Viv said that he would have to go through the records to work on creating forms to better address complaints in the future. Johnstone suggested that the handling of forms should be a topic for Jeffrey Dougan when he meets with us in May.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 Johnstone motioned to adjourn and Larry seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 21st 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)