

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 04/21/2021, 5:00 pm.

Present: Susan Dunderdale, Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, Guest Leslie Hennessey.

Susan called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

Leslie Hennessey Let the commission know that they were looking at how to get information out about COD's survey. She informed the group that the COA now has 2 handicap accessible buses. Leslie said the hope to start moving in in June and hoped to be open later in the summer. Larry asked if the COA has a listing or any notion of what seniors in town have disabilities. Leslie replied that they have some contact through Ann Andras who is the outreach coordinator, but do not have a formal program for disabilities.

Jamie Mazur joined the meeting at 5:23 and Leslie left at that point. (During the meeting Tay's computer kept dropping in and out)

Susan let the group know that there were 28 responses to the survey. There was a brief review of some of responses, and we would go over survey results at a later time.

Susan asked Johnstone and Tay to give an update on the dog park. Johnstone said that there were issues with HC parking at the dog park as cars park too closely together to allow exiting from a ramp. There was a motion to have Johnstone follow up on the parking issue. The motion was made by Johnstone and seconded by Larry. The motion carried unanimously.

Susan has received no feedback on her e-mail to the selectboard regarding accepting Mass gen law 4022G to establish an account for the commission on disabilities funded by HC parking fines.

Susan went over developing a question about disabilities for the new town administrator. Johnstone stated that the search committee was concerned about inclusiveness and equity. A second concern that applied to our committee was that the candidate should work closely with committees and commissions.

The group went over Dave Gardner's feedback on the sidewalk cuts at the new Peoples Bank on the corner of Lyman and Newton streets. Tay stated that although the curb cuts meet the minimums they still are less than she would have hoped for from a safety standpoint. Tay believes there are future plans to improve the area. Tay will send link to project.

Susan brought up rules for outdoor dining and there was a brief discussion about the subject and opening up the streets for seating. It was suggested we might want to take a look at this in the future.

Susan said that she is in contact with Viv as to where things stand on bringing buildings into compliance with problems brought up with the town survey.

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Larry stated that the Friends of BATTERY Brook Park are still looking to support a wheelchair accessible swing in connection with a planned upgrade to the park.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01, Larry motioned to adjourn and Tay seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

Next meeting is scheduled for May 19th 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)