



Town of Hudson

Commission on Disabilities

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Tel: (978) 562-2948

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Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hudson Commission on Disabilities was conducted via remote participation.

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Chair Andrea Erickson

Roll Call: Andrea Erickson (Chair), Frank Noyes (Vice Chair), George Luoto, Sheryl Marrazzo

Staff: Pam Helinek

ADA Transition Plan

Pam Helinek has located and distributed Hudson's ADA Transition Plan which was written in 2018 but never acted upon. Frank Noyes reported checking some of the Plan's action items and it appears that none of them were implemented. Frank Noyes volunteered to meet with the School Superintendent to follow up on School Department action items. Sheryl Marrazzo volunteered to meet with the Recreation Director to follow up on Recreation Division action items. Pam Helinek will email the two department heads to introduce the Committee members. The Commission voted to approve this proposal: 4-0-0. Pam Helinek will add an "update" item on ADA Transition Plan Implementation as a regular agenda item.

Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program

The Committee had discussed applying for a grant to update the ADA Transition Plan, but agreed that it made sense to implement as much of the original plan as possible before working on an update. The grant can also be used for project implementation. The Committee agreed that it might be a good idea to apply for a grant to implement many of the action items in the Transition Plan, but that it was too late to apply for the FY23 grant, so this should be considered in FY24. Andrea Erickson volunteered to contact Jeff Dougan from the Mass Office on Disabilities (MOD) to discuss the next grant round. Frank Noyes pointed out that Hudson is not on the MOD Municipal Commission on Disability Listing and asked Andrea Erickson to talk to Jeff Dougan about that also. The Commission voted to approve this proposal: 4-0-0. Pam Helinek will add an "update" item on MOD Interactions as a regular agenda item.

Hudson Bike and Pedestrian Committee update

Frank Noyes reported that there were no significant updates.



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Protocol for Responding to Community Concerns

Frank Noyes reported that two items had been brought to his attention as ADA compliance issues in local businesses. He asked how he should handle community concerns that are brought to him. Should he discuss these issues with the Commission? Work with the businesses directly? Sheryl Marrazzo suggested a googledrive spreadsheet for tracking issues. Pam Helinek said she thought it was appropriate for a Commission member to have a non-confrontational discussion with a local business, and if a business was uncooperative a complaint could then be filed with the Building Commissioner. Sheryl Marrazzo said it was important to be sure you are speaking with the person who can actually correct the problem. Frank Noyes said he would like to introduce himself as a member of the COD when approaching a business. George Luoto said that he did not think that was appropriate, and that it was the Building Commissioner's job to enforce compliance with ADA regulations. The Commission voted to approve the policy of introducing oneself as a member of the Commission on Disabilities: vote 3-1-0.

The Committee agreed on the following protocol:

- 1 – All grievances to be recorded in a googledrive spreadsheet
- 2 – Commission member may introduce themselves as a COD member and discuss the issue with the business in a non-confrontational way
- 3 – Grievance to be discussed at the next Commission meeting
- 4 – Grievance reported to Building Commissioner or appropriate party if it can't be easily resolved by Commission

Pam Helinek will set up the grievances spreadsheet on googledrive and will add an "update" on grievances as a regular agenda item.

Minutes – Frank Noyes moved to approve the minutes from July 26, 2022. Second by Sheryl Marrazzo, vote 4-0-0

Other Business

- **Metered Parking** – Frank Noyes reported correspondence from Jeff Dougan indicating that an individual with a Handicap Plate or placard is not required to pay at a metered space on a public street. Frank Noyes commented that although legally you do not have to put money in a meter if you have a handicap plate, many towns will still give you a ticket and it is inconvenient to have the ticket voided.

Adjournment – Andrea Erickson moved to adjourn the meeting, vote 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.