



Town of Hudson
Commission on Disabilities
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Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending the remote meeting provisions of March 12, 2020, Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting of the Hudson Commission on Disabilities was conducted via remote participation.

Note: A quorum was not present so the meeting is unofficial and no votes were taken

Roll Call: Andrea Erickson (Chair), Ron Sorgman

Staff: Pam Helinek

Members of the Public: Frank Noyes

DPW Building Steering Committee

DPW is forming a Steering Committee for the design of their new building and has requested a member of the Commission on Disabilities join the Steering Committee. The meetings will be in person at the current DPW building, probably evenings at around 5PM. Frank Noyes volunteered to represent the Commission if no members volunteer, but encouraged members to get involved. Pam Helinek will email the full Commission and ask for volunteers.

ADA Transition Plan Implementation

No progress at this time. Ron Sorgman volunteered to work with Andrea after he recovers from an injury.

Community Concerns

Frank Noyes said that the host stand at Rail Trail Flatbread Restaurant has been moved back to a location that blocks wheelchair access. Pam Helinek will talk to the Building Commissioner. Frank Noyes brought up the issue that outdoor dining areas are not always accessible to disabled people. He mentioned chairs and tables being the wrong height, and configurations that don't allow wheelchair passage. Pam Helinek suggested that a good winter project would be to approach restaurants with outdoor dining and ask them to conform to the Mass Office on Disabilities outdoor dining regulations. Frank Noyes will look up the regulations and will also inspect some outdoor dining areas more closely.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The consultants working on the OSRP update have conducted ADA evaluations of Hudson's open space and recreation facilities and are writing a report. They will be attending the next meeting on October 17 to discuss their findings and talk to the Commission about prioritization, and about other concerns relevant to open space and recreation.