



Town of Hudson

Commission on Disabilities

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
Tel: (978)562-2989 Fax: (978)568-9641
Email: adumas@townofhudson.org

Minutes of Meeting – June 28, 2022

Pursuant to the Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Hudson Commission on Disabilities was conducted via remote participation.

At 9:30 AM, Andrea Erickson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Commission Members Participating: Andrea Erickson, Chair
Frank Noyes, Vice Chair
George Luoto

Commission Members Absent: Ron Sorgman
Sheryl Marrazzo

Staff Members Participating: Amanda Molina Dumas, Assistant Planner

Welcome from the Chair

Ms. Andrea Erickson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Commission noted that the last meeting scheduled on May 10, 2022 was canceled due to a lack of quorum, and noted that the meeting scheduled for June 14, 2022 was canceled in place of this meeting.

Planning Department project updates

The Planning Department is starting the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which includes an accessibility component relative to public parks and facilities. The Planning Director has asked that 1 or 2 COD members serve on the steering committee once formed. Fox25 ZipTrips is coming to Hudson on Friday, August 12, 2022 from 8-10 AM. The Catch Connect bus service has commenced and will fill a gap in transportation services in the area.

Community Access Monitor Training / MOD Training Recap

Ms. Molina Dumas provided a summary of recent trainings offered by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. The Community Access Monitor training covered the history of the ADA and disability rights in the United States, as well as resources for addressing physical and communication barriers for people with disabilities. The Disclosure in Employment Workshop Series, which covered topics like deciding to disclose, reasonable accommodations and disability discrimination in the workplace. The Commission reviewed examples highlighted in the CAM training, which also included a brief section on website accessibility. Ms. Molina Dumas stated she would a guide to website accessibility with the Commission. The Commission also discussed the upcoming Disability Summit being hosted by the Massachusetts Office on Disability in October.



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Hudson Bike and Pedestrian Committee update

Mr. Noyes provided an update on the committee. The recent survey distributed by the committee received over 500 responses, which are now in the process of being compiled and analyzed, and responses organized by area in Town. The survey went out to several of the community groups in Town, and a poster with QR code was posted by the Rail Trail. The survey was also multi-lingual as it was provided in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Lots of the responses talked about sidewalks (no sidewalks, incomplete sidewalks, etc). Three community forums are proposed for August, with one in the morning, one in the evening and one on Zoom to ensure the forums are accessible to all. Mr. Noyes said that ultimately a plan will be put together to focus on priority areas and will tie into the Complete Streets program with DPW.

Approval of 4/19/2022 meeting minutes

Frank Noyes seconded by Andrea Erickson moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 19, 2022. 3-0-0.

Other Business

Ms. Erickson commented that her house is a good model for what a perfect accessible house could be. She discussed many of the renovations made, such as widened doorways for wheelchair mobility and a specially designed deck and lift for access to the pool. Ms. Molina Dumas suggested that the Commission could make a video tour of Ms. Erickson's house to show examples of accessible renovations, or take photos and label them. The Commission then discussed the use of home modification loans from the state to make ADA compliant updates and modifications to homes, and how many disabled people are not aware that these programs exist. Mr. Luoto stated that he is exploring a home modification loan currently, and Mr. Noyes said that the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission has done an accessibility assessment of his house in the past, and also helped arrange the install of accessible car controls. Ms. Erickson asked the Commission if there is a way we could advertise this information so more people know about it. The Commission brainstormed different ideas for sharing this information, including posting on the Commission on Disabilities page on the Town website, or discussing the programs at a future meeting and posting a video of the meeting on the website. Ms. Molina Dumas said she would research different resources and put an information sheet together.

Mr. Noyes asked if the Town was considering applying for an ADA improvement grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability. Ms. Molina Dumas stated that the Town has applied in two previous application cycles but was not awarded a grant, but the Town does need to complete an ADA Transition Plan Update. The Planning Office was contacted by the Collins Center at UMass Boston about providing technical assistance to the Town to create an ADA Transition Plan Update. The Planning Office will explore this more and follow up with the Commission.

The Commission revisited the topic of identifying potential parking spaces that could be converted to ADA spaces. The Commission will discuss at a future meeting.

The Commission discussed the next meeting date of 7/12/2022 and agreed to move the meeting to 7/26/2022 to accommodate the guest speaker's schedule.



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The Commission also discussed a restaurant located in Downtown that has major accessibility issues, including a stair at the entrance and a lack of handicap accessible restroom facilities for women, as the men's room doubles as the accessible restroom. The Commission discussed the possibility of doing an assessment exercise, but noted that businesses may be adverse to this.

The Commission also asked about the continuation of remote meetings since the provision is due to expire. Ms. Molina Dumas said that they are waiting on guidance from the state but was soon as they knew anything, she would pass that along to the Commission.

Adjournment

Andrea Erickson seconded by George Luoto moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 AM. 3-0-0.

Cc: Town Clerk