



Town of Hudson

Commission on Disabilities

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Tel: (978) 562-2948

Email: phelinek@townofhudson.org

Meeting Minutes

December 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, Ron Sorgman

Staff: Pam Helinek

Hudson Public Library Accessibility Problems

Present: Aileen Sanchez-Himes, Library Director , Lisa Aucoin, Asst Library Director

Andrea Erickson and Frank Noyes said it was impossible to get into the library from the parking lot behind the library due to the steep grades. Aileen Sanchez-Himes said that she and Lisa Aucoin had done a walkthrough imagining wheelchair access getting to the building from different locations. She said that some of the issues were in the library's purview to improve, others were on Town property and would need to be improved through the Select Board or DPW action.

Aileen Sanchez-Himes said that the long-range plan is to construct an addition in the back of the library doubling its size and with a covered parking area. The new main entrance will be in the rear of the building. But this will take many years and there needs to be an interim plan. All agreed that the side staff entrance would provide the easiest wheelchair access if it could be made accessible on the inside. Andrea Erickson suggested a lift to the platform could be much less expensive than extensive regrading. Ron Sorgman said he could take a look at the side entrance to determine if it could be adapted for wheelchair access.

Frank Noyes said it would be helpful to do another walkthrough with someone in a wheelchair. Andrea Erickson volunteered to do the walkthrough. Aileen Sanchez-Himes said they could do the walkthrough on a Sunday when the library was closed to the public.

Pam Helinek said that accessibility projects might be eligible for an MOD grant. Andrea Erickson suggested talking to our state legislators. George Luoto suggested that the Commission get on the Select Board agenda in January to raise the issue with the Select Board.



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Frank Noyes asked about accommodations for other disabilities, such as visual impairment. Aileen Sanchez-Himes said that Worcester Talking Book Library would mail materials to eligible people.

Aileen Sanchez-Himes agreed to schedule times to meet with Ron Sorgman and Andrea Erickson. The Commission agreed to add the library accessibility discussion as a regular agenda item for their monthly meetings.

ADA Transition Plan Implementation

Frank Noyes reported that School Facilities Direct Scott Kurposka had not made progress on the parking lot issues but had it in his plans.

Hudson Bike and Pedestrian Committee update

Frank Noyes reported that the Bike and Ped Committee had a public meeting and is now finishing up their report for the Select Board and requesting CPA money to design parts of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Community Concerns

No new concerns reported.

Minutes – Andrea Erickson moved to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022. Second by Frank Noyes, vote 4-0-0

Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.