

Commission on Disabilities

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Present: Chair Jean Goldsberry, Janet Beyer, Karen Young, MaryBeth Barker, Meryl Schwartz Lloyd Price, Jennifer Brooke, Bob Andrews

Guest; Grazia de la Cruz

Meeting called to order at 5:05

Minutes approved with suggested amendments.

Transportation Advisory committee

Regarding Sudbury Street. crosswalk at library

The Transportation Committee had a meeting at the site and discussed possible solutions to making the crossing more accessible from Stow Street to library. Flashing lights was not considered a good solution. The committee felt a raised cross walk, which works as a speed bump, would work. It would warn the cars and slow them down. Belmont has several. At some of Belmont's intersections the whole intersection was raised. There was talk of painting the crosswalk a different color. Someone suggested painting it as a pile of books. There was some discussion about low light's pointing downwards, but this would not be good for snowplows. The Transportation Advisory committee is putting effort into this. Application for funding would be requested in the fall. The Mass. Commission on Disability has money that can be used for this sort of thing.

Meryl: Did they rule out flashing lights?

Jean: No, but they asked people for opinions.

I don't see the Historic District Commission agreeing to flashing lights.

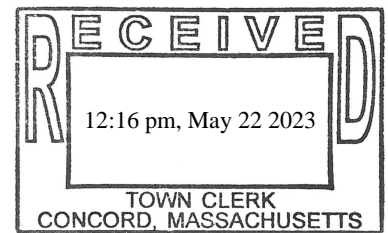
Meryl: I am concerned about the raised street.

Jean: The woman looking into it said the raised area would slow down a fire truck by three seconds.

Karen: I like the idea of the raised bump. My issue with the flashing lights is that they are not reliable.

Lloyd:

Lloyd and MaryBeth did an informal questionnaire that they we will send to commission members for their comment. The questions follow.



1. What businesses do you frequent that you find accessible and user friendly as a person with a disability or a person with a family member or friend with a disability?

In some cases there may be something the store can do and others that cannot

2. Are there businesses you find inaccessible or difficult to do business with due to you or your family member's or friend's disability?

3. Do you do business with any Concord establishments by phone, through use of their web site, by request for curbside services or delivery service?

4. What other ideas or thoughts do you have about what businesses that are not physically accessible, meaning they do not have a ramp, elevator, correct door width etc.) could do to provide service for individuals with diverse disabilities?

Karen: I can think of several businesses that you can get into but are not accessible once you get in.

Lloyd: people should reply to MaryBeth and me  
We can discuss the replies at next meeting.

Jean If people want to snailmail it they can mail it to me.

Janet: Put it in COA newsletter

Jean: I will send Lloyd a list of people who will get questions starting with our email list.

Jean is going to send the questionnaire to all commission members and COA and will make an addition: send answers to Marybeth or Lloyd, or snail mail to Minuteman Arc.

MaryBeth moved: the subcommittee makes the recommendation to accept the questionnaire and send it to members of the committee and the Council on Aging.

Meryl Seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

MaryBeth: I recently had to go to a meeting in Chelmsford and the woman running the meeting said that landlord provided her with a ramp. The Town of Chelmsford, she said, requires it.

Meryl: This is common in Tucson.

Jennifer: Those accommodations are required by the ADA and it is a matter of enforcement. The ADA would like to see a permanent solution. But sometimes funding is not available

Meryl: this is an opportunity for the Town to take a step forward. An opportunity for them to think about compliance for the 250<sup>th</sup>.

6:02 meeting adjourned.: