

## Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Present: Jean Goldsberry, Chair, Karen Young, Jennifer Brooke, Bonnie Albright, Meryl Schwartz, Janet Beyer, Lauren Barretta (Via Zoom)

Absent: Marybeth Barker, Lloyd Price

Minutes from May meeting were approved as written.

### Old Business

#### Needs of People with Cognitive Disabilities

Jean communicated Lloyd's regrets missing the meeting and reported that a meeting with Carmin Reiss has been set up for the Monday following the Town Meeting. The commission will reassess the needs of people with mild cognitive impairment next winter before next town meeting. Members suggested asking the Council on Aging (COA) to offer a presentation simplifying the content of the meetings articles. An additional suggestion was that the COA set up a "buddy system" to explain the articles and attend the meeting together.

#### Use of motorized devices on the Bruce Freedom Rail Trail (BFRT)

Meryl reported that the BFRT has not defined the term "motorized." They have decided though to limit or exclude golf carts. Jean offered to follow up with BFRT co-chair Richard Fahlander as BFRT had received a question regarding golf carts and referred it to the commission. The members of the commission feel that it should be a uniformed decision for the entire trail.

#### Funding Process and Requests

Jennifer reported that she and Bonnie talked to Jeff Dugan. He provided information regarding restrictions related to the use of handicap parking fine related funds. Funds generated from parking fines must be spent on public efforts. Commission can decide where the funds go, but decisions are vetted by the town. Grants cannot be awarded to a private business or individual, only to town-owned entities. He sent a copy of a presentation regarding starting a municipality commission and how funds are used.

A few examples were provided: Burlington hires an officer to enforce handicap parking regulations, raising approximately \$130,000 annually. Those funds were then used by the town to meet accessibility standards. Another town created an accessibility guide for their residents. Fall River paid to research the misuse of placards, and made \$200,000 in fines from misused placards.

Meryl asked if there was guidance on how frequently the commission should spend the money. That is the COD's decision, but as it is public money, expenditure has to be approved by the town.

A project for schools would be approvable.

Bonnie has spoken to Public Information Officer Erin Stevens about promotional materials. All media and press goes through Erin. ~~Bonnie is working on a press release for the commission.~~

## New Business

### Transportation Committee (TC)

Meryl asked if the COD has any concerns to bring to the transportation committee. Meryl made reference to signage for the rail trail, which asks riders to dismount at crossings in the West Concord center. Members asked if the committee is asking for the commission's opinion to formalize questions for transportation committee. Jean voiced a request: that the TC connect with MBTA to link with The Ride to expand west of Concord to abutting communities.

### Summer Schedule

Lloyd suggested to Jean that the COD schedule meetings farther in advance. The committee agreed to return to a schedule of meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Meetings will be held in July, August and September. The summer meetings can focus on returning to the roots of the commission and re-evaluate the mission by reviewing the original charter.

### Awards

Jean suggested adding to next month's agenda further discussion of giving an award. October is Disability Month. The award could be presented to a building, an employer, or for a public service.

Next meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Barretta