



Commission on Disability Minutes June 14

Present:

Jean Goldsberry, Janet Beyer, Bob Andrews, Jennifer Brooke, Karen Young

Observing: Linda Escobedo, Grazia de la Cruz, Megan Zammuto

Absent: Lloyd Price, MaryBeth Barker

Corrections to May meeting: Bob will send me new wording for his section
Add Jennifer Brooke name to people present

Presentation about questionnaire will be put off due to Lloyd and Mary Beth being absent.

West Concord railroad crossing

Jean: There were two incidents where someone has tried to cross the railroad tracks from Concord Park area and had problems. The gap is three inches wide and two inches deep. Mary Beth found a solution that is used in other states.

Megan was in touch with Rep. Cataldo. The Town had representatives visit the site.

They were told that it was up to MBTA standards, which is not good enough for safety.

This is an emergency.

A note was sent from Rep. Cataldo's office saying that they have been in touch with MBTA and Keolis, the company that manages the computer rail for the State. They said they were not looking at a quick fix.

Jean: MBTA has not been helpful. Many years ago the Town went to the MBTA about Concord train access and they were not helpful.

Jennifer: We have not gone to the MBTA with small issues. Our commission needs to be proactive about how dangerous this crossing is. We have never engaged at this level with the MBTA before.

Karen: There are three crossings there.

Jennifer: They are out of compliance in a huge way.

Jean: I had plans to reach out. I put that on hold when Rep. Cataldo got involved.

Megan: Maybe I could ask for a meeting with the Accessibility Board of the MBTA and send a letter with photos. There is a mix of residents in that area and maybe more wheelchairs than any place in Concord.

Bob: Is there some way a warning could be issued to people using this crossing.

Jean: I would be happy to reach out to Concord Park. But the responsibility lies with the MBTA,

I can write a letter to the Architectural Access Board with Megan pointing out this problem so it will come from the Town also.

Janet: Any letters we send should go to Senator Barrett and representatives Gentile and Cataldo.

Linda: How about channel 5? It does spotlights on issues like this.

Jean: Good point

In summary, Megan and I will write a complaint letter to AAB.

I will write a letter to Concord Park asking if they would like information about the dangers of crossing the tracks.

To consider: Channels 5 and 7, investigative reports and the Spotlight team.

Jennifer: if we reach out to channel 5 I would involve the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and perhaps person who got stuck. Meghan will connect with the Town and their communications person.

Jean: Acton COD has adaptive bikes that are available at no charge and others for a small fee. They are at the rail trail. Concord has two adaptive bikes.

Linda: re adaptive bikes Has anyone asked if they can get relocated to West Concord.

Jean: I talked to someone last summer and my recollection is that it was vandalized.

Karen: it was thought they were more secure in the center and that they were going to be moved closer to the train station.

Jennifer: Last night I gave a presentation about the Assabet River bluff. There were questions concerning why we need accessible trails. There is no accessible public trail in Concord. When we have this opportunity to present at this type of meeting we should do so. Someone from our commission should be there. The property is located near the rail trail. The parking is on the other side of the RR tracks.

Linda: The best way to get out this information in the short term is to send it to News and Notices. It is the left-hand column opening page on the Concord Town website,

Next meeting: July 13, 5 pm

Adjourned 6:01

Submitted, Janet Beyer, clerk