



Minutes Commission on Disabilities
July 13

Present Jean Goldsberry, Janet Beyer, Bob Andrews, Karen Young, Meryl Schwartz

Guests Megan Zammuto, Grazia de la Cruz, Mimi Grainy

June minutes approved.

Regarding railroad crossing at Concord Depot:

Jean: I went to Concord Park and a nurse said that only one gentleman uses a wheelchair and he had never gotten caught on the tracks. The nurse was going to let the staff know about the issue of dangerous crossing. It is also dangerous for people using walkers.

Megan: The Town has talked with the Architectural Access Board (AAB) about the issue of a gap in the tracks. They will have a report in the next couple of weeks. Rep. Cataldo's office told us that they received a report from the Architectural Access Board. They have done site visits and will have a report in a couple of weeks.

Bob: Has any sign been put up warning of danger of RR tracks?

Karen: The crossing at Club Car Cafe is not the only dangerous crossing. The Commonwealth Ave. crossing is also dangerous.

Jean: As well as the Sudbury Road crossing at Concord center.

Karen and Jean will talk about the AAB report when it is made available.

Jean: If the AAB believes it is something that can be fixed quickly that would be ideal and if not let's consider immediate signage.

Jean Acton has bikes that anyone can rent from the Town.

Megan: Our adaptive bikes will be near Brookside Apartment.

Regarding hearing issues:

Bob: I could invite some of the people I have worked with come to our next meeting and share their information

Jean: The Commission has some funds. 50% of parking fines go to us.

And the State Commission on Disabilities. has funds available for town use .

Bob: we need staffing and help in setting up the equipment.

Grazia suggested we contact Middlesex Community college for help in setting up equipment.

New business: July is the 33rd anniversary of ADA and Disability pride month. We could consider a letter to the Concord Bridge.

Mimi Grainy, economic vitality manager for the Town, has been trying to find ways businesses can be more accessible to seniors.

Jean: In preparation for the 250th we have been checking businesses for access. Lloyd and Marybeth have developed a survey for members to review town business for accessibility.

Jennifer: It would be helpful for us to know what is holding them back from making their building accessible. She suggested a portable ramp as one way to be more accessible.

Jean: we want us to be seen as a resource. Sometimes it takes a simple solution, we can help them. Debra's old building aisles are too small but new building is accessible.

Mimi: Perhaps we could do a workshop for business owners. And offer free resources, consultants who could come in and show them how to make it more accessible.

Jennifer: If the Town has the resources to create a position for an Economic Vitality Manager then it should also have the resources to commit to a bonafide ADA coordinator, rather than burdening an already over-burdened Town official with this job. It is disappointing that the Town's commitment to managing access is far less defined than its approach to sidewalk retail.

Meeting adjourned 6:10

August 10 next meeting

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