



## **Concord Commission on Disabilities**

Minutes

Oct. 14, zoom meeting

Present: Jean Goldsberry, Karen Young, Janet Beyer, Bonnie Albright, Meryl Schwartz, Susan Bates, Mary Beth Barker

Guest Kathleen O'Neill

Minutes of September 9 meeting approved.

### **Junction Village Traffic**

Jean: Junction Village Traffic is a continuing issue. There will be a meeting concerning parking behind the prison toward West Concord. Dorrie Kehoe has been asked to go it. The desire is to move the rail trail traffic away from Junction Village park.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**

Susan: The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) steering committee is going to meet with the Select Board. If the Junction Park is considered a part of BFRT it is of concern. The new bridge over Route 2 would bring more bicycle traffic to the small park as part of the BFRT, and speeding is a concern since many cyclists ignore the signs to walk their bikes. She suggested that someone from the committee go to that Select Board meeting. Bridge will be open next spring, so that gives time to develop a solution.

### **Visibility**

Mary Beth: Concord has an Instagram account. The person in charge said that if the commission submitted something to her it would be posted. The parameters: It couldn't be political, needed to be positive. We could stage a photo of people using the trail with assisted mobility devices and post it. Mary Beth will arrange for a photo. Contact person is: Erin Stevens, Public Information and Communications Manager, Town of Concord, MA [estevens@concordma.gov](mailto:estevens@concordma.gov), 978-318-3052

### **Emerson transportation**

Jean: I was contacted by the Acton Commission on Disability and they are concerned about people getting home from hospital emergency room. They wanted to know if we were interested in joining in this pursuit.

Meryl: I am curious about the issue because someone with a disability would probably have someone with them.

Kathleen: A person contacted me about this. People get taken to the ER by ambulance. There is no taxi service. In Acton there is a fund with vouchers good for taxis. They have arrangement with a (former) taxi service. The nurses at the hospital are trying to fix this problem.

Meryl: the hospital has an obligation to set up a system. I would contact the discharge person or a social worker for information.

MaryBeth: My understanding is that those people at the hospital call the Acton people and ask if the members can help.

Meryl: Where are these people coming from? Their home? Housing? How frequent is the problem?

Mary Beth: The person I talked to said she would talk to the commission

Jean: We need someone to talk to us from the hospital.

Meryl: the discharge people are the ones involved. I think we need to involve the people who asked the question rather than the hospital. The people who face the problem in the ER need to go up the chain. We should deal with the people dealing with the problem, and also ask the hospital if there are solutions they have not considered.

Kathleen: Some Councils on Aging pick up people at the hospital.

Jean: Let me suggest two things: we reach out to the administration and the nurses.

Meryl: I am aware that the COA has made it clear they serve only older residents. Town services should be available to all in the town. The isolation policy currently held by COA is a big issue. The town does not do a good job in offering these services. Disabled people are discriminated against in Concord and as a commission we need to confront this problem.

### **Wellness in Motion**

Marybeth described a recent experience at Wellness in Motion, 91 Main St., which offers wellness services. Parking is located behind the building. She discovered that a dumpster is parked in the center of two Handicapped Parking spaces making both unusable. In addition, there is no curb cut or ramp to access the raised walk to enter the building. She reported the issue to the Building Inspector. A series of calls was made to the building inspector and Cassella, the dumpster company. Eventually the building inspector got the attention of the property owner, Marley Properties, and it was agreed that the dumpster would remain in place but the parking spaces will be repainted moving the handicapped spaces away from the dumpster. The building inspector explained that the building is exempt from ADA codes requiring a curb cut or ramp due to the age of the building. Jean agreed to work with Marybeth to follow up with making sure the parking space lines are repainted.

Jean: Envision Concord, we have been asked to update the information we submitted a few years ago to Envision Concord. Any volunteers? We need to submit a report by November 15. Karen offered to help, and Rose.

### **Transportation advisory committee**

Meryl has been serving on it and likes to serve. It is being reformed to become an official committee of the town. She asked that someone take it on until she can do it again in the spring as she is moving this fall.

Susan: I cannot comment on the disability but we have had several green cards filled out and I expect this position to be filled.

Jean: I would be willing to step into that position until Meryl free to go back on it

### **Other business**

Susan: Redistricting. The Senate is the same; but the House is different. Comments are needed Monday. Concord is proposed to be split. One of the big concerns is the regional Concord-Carlisle schools. The town will be divided and some of it is with Carlisle.

She encouraged people to write to the legislative committee with opinions.

Next meeting Thursday, Nov. 11

Adjourned 5:55 p.m.