

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 06/24/2020. 5:02 pm

Present: Tay Silveira, Johnstone Campbell, Susan Dunderdale, Lawrence Dubois, Guest speaker Mike Kennedy

Absent: Jamie Mazur

Susan called meeting to order at 5:02 pm and asked Mike Kennedy to tell the group about his background and involvement with South Hadley's ADA survey.

Johnstone asked Mike if there were any issues that might not be addressed in the survey and the commission should be aware of. Mike gave an overview of some of the different disabilities addressed and Items to watch for when using the survey in assisting the town.

Susan asked Mike if there were any immediate concerns that needed to be addressed now. Mike said that overall South Hadley was in pretty good shape, but we should watch for items falling into disrepair and be aware when work is being performed that requirements are being met.

Mike suggested that all commission members take CAM (Community Action Monitor) training.

Susan suggested having the building inspector come to one of our future meetings. Mike suggested that it would be good to meet with all departments the commission might end up working with.

Mike went over the process for complaints and some of the reasons that there are discrepancies in disability standards. Mike then suggested some resources for the commission.

Mass office on disabilities (<https://www.mass.gov/commissions-on-disability>) and <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability>

Jeffrey L. Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services at the Massachusetts Office on Disability email Jeff at jeff.dougan@state.ma.us.

Center for Living & Working <https://www.centerlw.org/contact/>

Stavros <https://www.stavros.org/>

Susan brought up the towns search for a better virtual platform. Johnstone was selected to represent the commission.

The group discussed doing a survey to better determine the disability needs of town residents. It was decided that Susan would send a letter to Mike Sullivan asking how such a survey might proceed.

The group went over how to get information to individuals and forming policies that should be disseminated to the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)