

Minutes – Commission for the Disabled, Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 pm, Town Hall Large Conference Room.

1. The meeting consisted of a speech and question-and-answer session from Ms. Betsy Allen, the ADA coordinator for Somerville, MA. Somerville is adjacent to Boston, has a population of 75,000, and has received awards as a well-run city. The meeting was taped for later viewing.

Somerville is well ahead of Ridgefield in complying with Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). It contracted with the Institute for Human-Centered Design (IHDC) to assess its compliance for buildings and programs, and separately with an engineering contractor for roads. After assessing compliance, they formulated a detailed written plan and obtained buy-in from city departments.

A reasonable next step for us would be to obtain a copy of Somerville's RFP and list of potential contractors.

2. The following list of dates has been proposed for this Commission's 2017 meetings:

Jan 9, Feb. 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, Jul - no, Aug - no

Sep 11, Oct 16 (after Columbus Day), Nov 13, Dec 11.

3. It has been suggested that this Commission should NOT meet on dates when the Board of Education meets, so that BOE members can attend our meetings (or vice versa?):

Jan 9, 23, Feb 13/27, March 13/27, April 24, May 8/22, June 12 and 26. The conflicts between these dates and those of item 2 have yet to be resolved.

4. Next scheduled meeting of this Commission: Monday, Jan. 9, 2017.

W. Kenyon, secretary.