

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 2021

The meeting was held by Zoom online and called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes; Carol Menton; Naomi Ridge; Elan Rohde; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Megan O'Halloran and Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator.

CHAIR'S REPORT-

- 1) Watertown Riverfront Phase 2 Update- Kim attended a recent meeting and is hoping to get access to a recording of it so all of us can hear the meeting. The next phase of the rehab will be the pathways. An emphasis will be on Perkins Hill. The grade is steep- 6-8%. It was not known if the path nearest the river can be accessible, as it is very narrow. The park will be refurbished and there will be another overlook. There will be 4 crosswalks over Charles River Rd.
- 2) Knowles Delta- Naomi said that the sidewalk improvements have been completed.
- 3) How Dog Park- Kim said there will be nothing new until the spring.
- 4) Detectable warnings behind library- Naomi said there has been no progress yet on the detectable warnings on the path behind the library. She will take and send photos.
- 5) Detectable warnings Watertown Square Delta- Naomi will send photos. Kim will work with John on a letter to DPW.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes from the November meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's Office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- John said that the parking fines would pick up with full time enforcement, but won't be what it was pre-pandemic. It helps that we don't pay for council meeting captioning any more. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

PROPOSAL For BRAILLE PROGRAMS For INAUGURATION and ASL/CART- Kim said that the program is short, so won't cost much to produce in Braille. Carol M mentioned that CART is a 2 hour minimum. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to authorize up to \$300 for Braille and CART for the town inauguration in January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans- John said that we sent letters to MAAB for Kingsbury St and Galen St developments and are awaiting responses.
- 2) Special Ed- Naomi said that CPAC has been much more active, with parent education programs via Zoom.
- 3) 3) Safety and Access- Kim said she was invited to speak at the Arlington COD, along with a Cambridge traffic officer. The topic was accessible pedestrian signals. She said in Watertown, they are at all lighted intersections. The panel leader was a wheelchair user, and noted that the buttons were hard to reach, especially in the winter with snow, and was wondering if the pedestrian buttons could be made automatic. Kim didn't think so, but said that WCOD can make policy recommendations.
Lisa asked Kim about automatic sensors for intersections. Kim said it was mostly technology for vehicles, with the exception of one intersection with a bike path in Arlington.

NEW BUSINESS-

John said that he had gone to the Mosesian Center, which is open now with an art exhibit. He said that there is a bigger lobby and a bigger space on the 2nd floor. Alexandria is the new owner and is paying for renovations. John said that the New Repertory Theatre will be re-opening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

The next meeting of WCOD will take place via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wed, Jan. 19th, 2022.