

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15th, 2022

This meeting was held by Zoom online and called to order at 7:04 P.M. by John Hawes.

ROLL CALL- Carol Menton; Elan Rhode; Naomi Ridge; Gayle Shattuck, Personnel and ADA Coordinator; Rachel Kay; John Hawes; Megan O'Halloran; Lisa Feltner. Absent- Kim Carlson, Chair. Absent Carol Wilson-Braun. Guests- Caitlin Brown, Library Director.

GUEST SPEAKERS-

- 1) Caitlin Brown was at the Gala two weeks ago, stated there was no ASL interpreter even though the commission funded it. They were not able to spend the money they wanted to, maybe use the money for a future project that needs an interpreter, open to suggestions.
- 2) Carol brought up the idea of an ASL class. Caitlin will look into it; she wants to make sure the money is spent for accessibility.

CHAIRS REPORT-

- A. Lisa has sent pictures of the detectable warnings on the new path behind the library
- B. Community Board- the Suppa Board at CVS. Chris McClure is in contact with the company that installed. Lisa will contact Steve Magoon.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded, and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the city's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office or viewed on the Watertown website document center.

TREASURERS REPORT- It was moved, seconded, and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the Treasurer's Report for May. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the city's ADA coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans- John said Galen St. at Water St. is a mixed-use building. John retrieved the plans for the building and the handicap accessible spaces are scattered throughout the levels, rather than on the first level near the elevator; Lisa said the developers will make improvements to that. There is also a new sidewalk on Nonantum St. Community Reports and Plans Review- A new business item, Arsenal Yards for accessibility (i.e. parking spaces).
- 2) Special Education Update- Naomi, discussed that SEPAC will have a preschool meet and greet on Monday from 10-11:30 am at Filippello Park. Rachel discussed that at the SEPAC Board Meeting- it was announced about a Doug Flutie Grant for Communication for non-verbal children.

- 3) Safety and Access- Elan, discussed Main St. and Galen St. intersection, Main St. had traffic problems while it prepared for construction. Two curb cuts were a problem for mobility issues. The cuts are two inches above the street. Naomi said the walk lights didn't give enough time for someone in a wheelchair to get across, Elan sent a request to DPW to look into this.

NEW BUSINESS-

- 1) Lisa said the new cross walk at No. Beacon and Louise Streets is broken. DPW is aware and will contact the contractor.
- 2) Accessibility at the tennis courts behind Russo's and Son's of Italy will be improved. It's a hidden public park. It was agreed to make a new Safety and Access Item for Recreational accessible connections at the park at the Russo site at Sons of Italy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

The next meeting of WCOD will take place via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20th.