

**Watertown Commission on Disability
November 19, 2008**

In Attendance: Carol Menton, Bob Hall, Kim Charlson, George Donahue, Fred Isaacs, Marilyn Devaney, Alex Liazos, Gayle Shattuck

Meeting called to order at 7:00.

Guests: Tamarah Greene, Executive Director of Watertown Cable Access and Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning Director.

Roll Call

Guest Speaker: Tamarah Greene, Executive Director Watertown Cable Access Board

Carol gave an overview on Closed Caption project to date. Tamarah Greene talked about reasons why closed caption stopped under her predecessor after two school committee meetings were closed captioned. There were hidden costs of captioning beyond the fee quoted by Caption First. In February 2009 the analog encoder won't work when broadcasting switches to digital. Digital encoder was estimated at \$2,300.

Suggestion made to involve a consultant who can advise on this project and provide a report with recommendations regarding set up, implementation, and budget. Report to be shared with Town Council and Cable Access Board. Ms. Greene was asked about wireless captioning/broadcasting capabilities since that is the new technology. She will check with other cable access boards to see what they do about closed captioning.

Kim made a motion for the WCOD to create a subcommittee to identify qualified consultant to hire for this project, to make recommendations and provide training. Vote taken and passed. Carol, Kim and Tamarah will make up the subcommittee. Deadline for a report back will be January 2009 meeting.

Safety and Access Report:

Bus Stop update provided by Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning Director. MBTA has postured that a re-route to the Delta adds time to the route. State Representatives, MBTA, consultants and the Town staff have had meetings. MBTA wanted the Town to do time trials (i.e. change the traffic signals) and implement and then report back to them. The Town said that couldn't be done until the MBTA makes a commitment to move the bus stop on Main Street to the Delta.

Bob suggested that in the future meetings could someone ask them on what they base their increase in time (i.e. if they say it adds 3 minutes what is that based on).

Kim reported that at the intersection of Church Street and Main Street, the audible pedestrian signal is shrill and needs to be toned down. Gayle will report this to Public Works.

Chair Report:

Emergency planning meeting was held this morning with a presentation by Brookline Police Department.

Treasurer's report was read, and a vote to accept was made.

The minutes of the September meeting - motion was made to accept, and a vote to accept was made.

The minutes of the October meeting - motion was made to accept, and a vote to accept was made.

Fred gave a SPEDPAC update. The Greater Waltham ARC will be attending the December 19th SPEDPAC meeting.

January meeting on Jan 14th will be at the Lowell School. The Federation for Children with Special Needs will be doing a Basic Rights presentation; several neighboring towns are joining us for this (Belmont, Cambridge, Lexington, Arlington). The Watertown Schools have contracted with Melmark as their Autistic Spectrum consultants. This is an excellent choice; Melmark is the gold standard. Melmark is providing some parent training in Applied Behavior Analysis through the monthly SPEDPAC Autism Subcommittee meetings.

8:15 pm motion to adjourn was made, seconded, voted and approved