

**Watertown Commission on Disability
July 21, 2010**

Attendees: George Donahue, Chair; Kim Charlson; Anne Doughty, Fred Isaacs; Alex Liazos; Carol Menton, Gayle Shattuck, Carol Wilson-Braun

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair George Donahue.

Roll Call.

Guests were Elisabeth Schaefer, Director of Student Services for the Watertown Public Schools; and Tessie Kohlenburg from the SPEDPAC Program Committee.

Minutes

There was some discussion of who had requested the list of traffic signal locator tones from the DPW. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 16 2010 meeting. Copies of our minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's office.

Special Ed Report—Fred Isaacs

No report. Fred briefly discussed the SPEDPAC's MASSPAC dues with Elisabeth Schaefer.

Safety and Access - Kim Charlson

Gayle has again requested a list of audible traffic signals from the town Department of Public Works.

Tessie Kohlenberg suggested that if we could not get such a list, compiling a list might be a good high school disability awareness project.

Kim suggested that we ask one more time and, if that fails, request the list through the Town manager.

Closed Captioning - Carol Menton

Last time went well except that the captions did not show up on the tape recording, only on the live broadcast. This has been figured out and closed captioning should be a go for September.

It is now up to the Town Council how they roll it out. Promotion and publicity are up to them. Their first September meeting is September 14.

Open Meeting Law

The town will post meeting notices and schedules on a new bulletin board in Saltonstall Park.

We need an expert to come in and clarify this. Deliberation must be open; it doesn't seem that implementation was meant to be regulated.

Disability Awareness Education

The schools will need to recruit parents to help with this. The principals have

agreed to allow time for it in their schedules. Focus groups will be held before and after the training sessions to measure the effect of the training. Alex suggested that psychology grad students could be recruited to help measure.

It was moved, seconded, and passed with 6 ayes, no nays, and 1 abstention (Fred Isaacs was required to recuse himself as an officer of the SPEDPAC) to provide up to \$7500.00 to fund the disability awareness education project as proposed by the SPEDPAC and the Watertown Public Schools.

Treasurers Report - Gayle Shattuck

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

There was some discussion of how often the treasurer should report to us.

Newsline project - Kim Charlson

It is going well. The Watertown TAB is posted each week. People are calling in and listening. Jill Fennimore is the editor of the TAB. Kim will write a letter soon to publicize the project.

Dining guide update - Kim Charlson

The grad student completed the update. Kim needs to get it to George for review and get it posted to the website. We are aiming to have hard copy for Faire on the Square on September 25. We don't have an August meeting so we will need to decide on a quantity before our next meeting. We had too many copies last time, but people do like hard copies. We could be more aggressive about handing them out. We can always give out our web site url if we run out. 50 copies seems about right for the Faire on the Square.

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to allocate sufficient funds to print at least 100 large print copies and at least 50 Braille copies of the Fourth Edition of our dining guide.

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to allocate up to \$200.00 to print 2000 copies of a flier announcing the fourth edition of our dining guide and also providing our web site's url.

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to appropriate up to \$1200.00 to provide ASL interpreters for the Faire on the Square.

George announced ASL training in his e-mail. The commission will fund it.

There was discussion of funding captioning for George's cable television show, "From the Chair". Carol Menton will ensure that future shows are captioned.

We have no meeting in August. Our next meeting is September 15.

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 PM

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Fred P. Isaacs