

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 20th, 2022

The meeting was held by Zoom online and called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT-

Before we started, Carol M wanted to acknowledge Stephanie's birthday today. She is our primary CART person for our meetings.

- 1) Detectable Warnings on New Path Behind Library- Naomi said she hasn't been down there recently- too hot. Lisa had sent photos. Kim asked commissioners to go and check it out.
- 2) Update on Community Board on Main St near CVS- Kim said the town was still working with the vendor.
- 3) Faire on the Square- Will take place on Sept 24th. Megan will bring a tent again for shade. Gayle said we have a lot of supplies, and will reorder any brochures that are low in number. Carol M will send out a sign-up.
- 4) Update on Main and Galen St Curb Cuts- We will address next meeting.
- 5) Crosswalk signal at N Beacon and Louise- Carol W said Lisa told her that parts for the audible signal are on order.
- 6) Recreation Accessible Connections near Russos- John said there was a large park next to the skating rink, that has deteriorating benches. The DCR is fixing it up.

John also added that the river walk is moving along. They are working on an access lane on Charles River Road, and hoping to improve the grade for the smaller path right along the river. They can't do full ADA compliance without losing a lot of trees.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes from the June 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

John commented that he has been looking at our budgets for the last couple of years. We used to have an income of \$25K a year, but now have \$10K. Kim said that now that people are out and about more, our income may increase. Gayle said that the parking officer positions are fully staffed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- John said that things were quiet. He mentioned again the project of replacing the whole block containing the post office on Main St and reiterated concerns about the 5 story height. Naomi wondered if a shadow would be cast on the library patio.
- 2) Special Ed- Naomi said that the high school project was over budget due to supply chain problems. As a result, there was a change in design of eliminating a 2nd elevator, which will cause increased inconvenience for some. There was only one high bid to do the temporary high school. Naomi and Rachel want to have a speaker from the school building committee to talk about this project to address welcoming, accessible space. The school committee also meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, but maybe someone can come at 8 pm, perhaps in October.
- 3) Safety and Access- Kim had nothing new.

NEW BUSINESS-

Rachel said there was a family at the Hosmer with accessibility concerns. She is talking to them and inviting them to come to a COD meeting.

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, Sept. 21st, 2022.
There is no meeting in August.