

WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes

December 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Charlson at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Councilor Steve Corbett; George Donahue; Anne Doughty; Fred Isaacs; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator, and Carol Wilson-Braun.

Guest- Audrey Childs, Vice President and Assist Treasurer of the Historical Society of Watertown

AUDIENCE ISSUES- Audrey Childs discussed a proposal to close caption two historical Watertown DVDs so that people with hearing deficits can experience them. They are working with a business called Caption First, and anticipate a cost of \$595. If Caption First is not able to do it, she offered to come back before the Commission to explain. It was discussed to have one copy of the DVDs at the Historical Society, one copy at the library, one copy for WCOD and perhaps one copy for the cable station. The Historical Society will show the DVDs around town- Coolidge apts, senior center. It was suggested to put the DVD on our website, and to have a back up as an ftp file.

It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to authorize the expenditure of not more than \$800 to the Historical Society of Watertown for the closed captioning of the two historical Watertown DVDs.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim said she and Gayle wrote letters to the food pantries to whom we donated money last month. The letter to St. John's has a line mentioning our wish to honor Carol Menton's late mother who was a long time volunteer there. There was a suggestion to send an announcement of the donation to the Tab and the Patch.

MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes for October and November as corrected. Copies of our minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Report for November was presented. 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. Gayle explained several accounting practices, such as open purchase orders and encumbrances. Closed captioning is being accounted for separately for WCOD and the town council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Art Exhibit Final Report- Anne said there was good feedback from the library. Everything was disassembled and returned. Plans will be made for another exhibit next year. It was recommended to reserve the space in the library soon. It is good to coincide with Disabilities Awareness Month.

Website- George will go over statistics and include in the annual report.
Closed Caption- Steve said that the last town council meeting went smoother. Tamara Green at Watertown Cable Access said that she is the contact for Stephanie. They will be encouraged to meet.

Snow Update- Steve summarized the meeting on 11/29 of the DPW sub-committee for which he had put together a packet of information about ordinances in other Boston area towns. The three councilors present were mixed in their opinion, and the councilors in general are mixed. The audience members present who spoke were mostly against an ordinance. The subcommittee voted to recommend that the council discuss the basic issue further and vote up or down about the basic issue at their Jan 10th meeting. Steve recommends passing the general issue about the need for an ordinance, then details can be worked out later. George said he would do an educational piece on cable.

Special Ed- Fred stated that the schedule needs amending. George said he needs an updated version for the website. Schools need guidance concerning assistive devices and modern technology. Sped Pac will develop a new subcommittee for this issue, and for helping families afford special equipment. They will put in another grant application soon. Kim said that the autism segment of "Understanding Our Differences" was well received in the schools. Next will be blindness and low vision in March. Fred stated that they are having difficulty finding parent volunteers to help with the sessions.

Safety and Access- Kim stated that there is nothing to report this month.

OLD BUSINESS- The year end report is being prepared by George, and will include a summary of activities and issues and a list of guest speakers.

NEW BUSINESS- The inauguration of town officers will take place on Jan. 3rd at Perkins School for the Blind, and WCOD has been asked to cover accessibility costs: sign language interpreter, CART reporting and Braille programs.

It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously that we accept the above mentioned costs for the Town officers inauguration up to \$600.

The production of the Watertown recycling calendar was discussed.

It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously that WCOD cover the expenses of printing the recycling calendar in Braille not to exceed \$200. We usually print around 40, and then more by request.

George explained plans for the new assisted living residence at Spring and Summer Streets, which will have 27/90 units for Alzheimer's, underground and ground level parking, a restaurant, bistro and library. John will be receiving blueprints, and has recommended parking spots for HP vans.

Next meeting is Wed., Jan. 18, 2012.

It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Carol Wilson-Braun, Secretary.