



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Administration Building, 149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472-4410

Tel. (617) 972-6443 • Fax (617) 923-8195 • TTY/TTD (617) 923-1304
www.ci.watertown.ma.us

GAYLE M. SHATTUCK
Personnel Director

MEMO

To: Michael Driscoll, Town Manager
Joanna Hand, Confidential Secretary

From: Gayle Shattuck, Personnel Director

Date: September 25, 2013

Re: July 17, 2013 Commission on Disability agenda and approved meeting's minutes

At the WCOD meeting on September 18, 2013, the Commission approved the minutes of their July 17, 2013 meeting. Attached is a copy for your files.

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Steven Corbett, Town Councilor; George Donahue; John Hawes; Judith Herzberg; Fred Isaacs; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS- Rachael Natale and Abdul Noor.

AUDIENCE ISSUES- Rachael Natale, a Watertown resident, came to present a problem she is having with her condo management board regarding what she considers a safety issue with a step along the walkway. She and others in the building are elderly and have various disabilities. Her request to have a railing installed by the step has been declined by the board, and she considers this to fall under the Reasonable Accommodation amendment (MA 151B) from '88-89. She came to the Commission to find out how she can get the town to address this. She said one woman fell in the basement, where another railing was needed. She and 5 other residents of that condo building have filed a complaint with HUD (to register this at a federal level) and with Mass Commission Against Discrimination. Kim asked Gayle to check with the town's legal council and members of the Planning Board about the issue and what role or authority WCOD may have.

Abdul Noor was introduced as our intern until Sept. He will be a junior at DePauw University in Political Science and Communications and is interested in working with handicapped and elderly.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim announced that she has been elected President of the American Council of the Blind last week in Columbus Ohio. She is the 11th president and the 1st woman! She received an ovation from the Commission. She also reported that on June 27th at Perkins, there was a program of recognition for first responders for the Marathon bombing. An interpreter was provided by WCOD.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the June meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's Office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- a) Plans Review- John spoke of 2 new plans. 33 Mt. Auburn Street will be 44 rental units. Rental units' requirements are more stringent than condos for accessibility. 45 Bacon Street will be either rental or condo. John still has a concern that some hallways go through stairwells with extra doors, but that won't apply to any of the handicapped accessible apartments.
- b) Closed Caption- Audience member Rachael N was asked for her opinion of the closed captioning of the town council meetings, and she said she liked it. She feels more a part of what is going on. Carol M. mentioned that special closed caption telephones are now available in MA. There followed a discussion of the library's new TTY, and the general opinion is that TTYs are now outdated. People use relay or email. Carol M. has been in touch with the back-up trainee Janet Mahoney. Training will begin in August.
- c) Special Ed- Fred said that neither candidate was hired after interviews were done. There will be an interim, Arlene Shainker from the Watertown School system.
- d) Website stats- George said there were fewer than 60 visits. WCOD minutes are being moved to town website. The dining guide can be updated on the website. Key word searches work.

ONGOING BUSINESS-

- a) Gore Place Accessibility Project funding request was discussed. George mentioned a model of the Mt. Vernon mansion, and said it would be good to have a plaque on this model stating that it was funded by WCOD.
It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to level fund the above project for \$6070, with a request for acknowledgement of the Commission's support on a Braille plaque. It was discussed to fund ahead of time or reimburse expenses afterward.
- b) Watertown Riverfront Project- Kim and Steve. Phase I will include the Braille Trail, and will get funded by the fall, then the design stage, then start construction in the spring.
- c) HP Parking Update- Jean and George went to all of the spaces marked as HP, in preparation for updating the signage. There will be signs with fine amounts and painted signage on the pavement. WCOD will help fund the project. The municipal lots are a priority. A proposal and recommendations will be drawn up for September, involving police, the Highway Dept, and the Watertown DPW. It was suggested that Sergeant Sampson and Mr. Mee should be invited to our next meeting.
- d-g) Were tabled until our next meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

NEW BUSINESS-

George said we will need volunteers for our table at Faire on the Square, which will take place on Sept 28th. The Able Arts exhibit has one applicant already. George will print cards for promotion, and put an article in the Tab.

Next meeting will take place on Wed., Sept 18th. There will be no meeting in August. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

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