

WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes

Wed., March 20, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL- George Donahue; John Hawes; Judith Herzberg; Fred Isaacs; Carol Menton; Jean O'Connell; and Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator. Kim Charlson, Steven Corbett and Carol Wilson Braun had conflicts this evening and were unable to attend.

GUESTS- Elizabeth Gifford, Watertown Resident

AUDIENCE ISSUES- Elizabeth presented the problem of handicap parking. She asked the Commission to write a letter to the owner of the Target parking lot- Realty Company due to not enough parking spots in front of the store. John Hawes will talk with the Planning Department to see if some of the regular spaces can be converted to handicap spots. During the next month, Ms. Gifford will contact Gayle Shattuck with the contact information for the Watertown Mall Realty. The request for a letter from the Commission will be discussed at the April meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 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 February. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim is away but Gayle reported that Kim spoke last night at the meeting regarding social services needs in Watertown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Plans Review 555 Pleasant Street- John Hawes has reviewed the plans and there are no issues.

b) Closed Caption Update Discussion- Stefanie bought new closed captioning software and it works as long as if she has internet connection. Gayle will invite Helen Chatel, the new the Watertown Cable Access Executive Director, to the next meeting. Carol has been approached by Boston to help then with closed captioning. She asked if Joe Mahoney, IT Director, can put the Town's pass code for the secure Town wireless internet on Stefanie's computer so she will not have a disruption to closed captioning of Town Council Meetings. George motioned that the WCOD should cover the cost for the software Stefanie had to purchase. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve. Stefanie will provide Gayle with the receipt for reimbursement.

c) Pedestrian and Bicycle Meeting report- The meeting tomorrow night is chaired by the Planning Department.

d) Special Education Update April 10, 2013 event- The meeting will need a CART Reporter and Interpreter. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the cost of the CART and Interpreter for the event. Fred abstained from voting.

e) Safety and Access- There is nothing to report.

f) Emergency Preparedness- There is nothing to report.

g) Website Statistics- George explained the information on his handout. There were 66 visits in the last month. The Town's website has the WCOD agendas and approved minutes so we do not need to have them also on the WCOD website. Carol talked about the possibility of a Facebook page. She is not advocating for it but just simply putting the idea out there.

h) Able Arts exhibit- George said that November is booked with the Library. "Open arts" is still planning to open an exhibit in October or November. The WCOD can remove this agenda item until the fall.

ONGOING BUSINESS

a) UCPA Documentary: Shooting Beauty Screening Update- Carol and Jean reported that about 60 people attended the event. Purchasing a copy for the Watertown Free Library was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

a) George, Jean, and Tabitha will be reviewing and surveying handicap parking signs design.

b) Judith gave an update on a Grant for Live Well Watertown fresh produce initiative. They will meet sometime in April.

c) Jean invited the Board of Health nurse to the meeting next month to talk about Emergency Preparedness.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator.