

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 16th, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-Chair Fred Isaacs.

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

Absent- John Hawes and Carol Menton. Chair Kim Charlson was away.

Guest: Pat Swanson from the Watertown Mall.

AUDIENCE ISSUES- Pat Swanson came to follow up on the letter received from WCOD. They have 21 handicapped spaces and will add 4 more to make the 25 requested. They did a study and will keep the 2 spaces in front of Carters, finding that they are consistently used.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Fred commented on the Fair on the Square, saying that there wasn't much information available to people (schedules, maps) and not enough trash cans. Steve said that the town council will address the coordination of the Faire going forward.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle said that the line item concerning Lucille Traina was for the screening of the film Shooting Beauty. She added the comment to the report. It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for September. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

No reports for Plans and Closed Caption.

a) Special Ed- Fred said there was an evening with the school committee candidates last week, and it went well. Jon Portz didn't attend but had a statement read.

b) Safety and Access- Gayle met with Gerry Mee today about the parking study. He was going to look at the CVS lot, which is a priority. Ed Baptista, supervisor for the Highway dept also has the report. Fred said someone brought to his attention that the handicapped spaces that are perpendicular to regular spaces can be dangerous.

c) Emergency Preparation- Gayle recommended taking this off the agenda. The fire chief heads the effort. Kim could report on it as part of the chair's report. We will see what Kim says when she gets back.

d) Website Stats- George said there were 33 visits, 36 seconds average, most from the Commission. Dining Guide updates are on the website and may be the main draw.

e) Art Show update- George said there are 9 or 10 artists at present. He is putting together a booklet on the artists, and hopes to tape the exhibit and put it on cable. George recommends incorporating it into Watertown Open Studios next year.

ONGOING BUSINESS-

- a) Riverfront- no updates
- b) Handicapped Parking Locations- Municipal lots take priority. Final draft is done. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to thank George and Jean for their work on the project. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the report.
- c) Social Service Position- Steve said the position is supported by the Community Foundation, Watertown Savings Bank and WCOD, and will start 24 hrs/week at an undetermined future date, and will be based at the multiservice center.
- d) Live Well Watertown- Fred reported that Watertown got a grant for the program, which will be mostly, but not exclusively for schools.
- e) Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee- George urged everyone to see the new mural along the path near Moxley field.
- f) Watertown Comprehensive Plan- Steve said there will be another planning session 9-12 on Saturday morning, for public feedback and recommendations. John expressed his desire that objectives will be set at this meeting. Goal is to finish by end of this year.
- g) CART coverage for election events- Oct 17th public debate for town council president at Coolidge Apts and Oct 27th town council positions by League of Women Voters at the library. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to appropriate up to \$800 for projected CART service for the Watertown election events.

NEW BUSINESS-

a) There was a letter from “Mary” about a problem accessing a bus at the Watertown Square delta. Fred said that this was more a T problem and it should be addressed to them. He also recommended that the Safety and Access sub-committee take a look at the delta. John and George will look at the situation. George suggested tabling more discussion until next month.

b) Gayle said an intern position will be posted for spring, as no candidates have worked out.

c) Gayle gave an update on the Senior Center automatic doors. There is a quote of \$3600, and WCOD will give monetary support. Legal advice is needed about how to fund- gift to town council? It will be inner and outer doors with a switch to prevent opening after hours.

Next meeting will take place on Wed., Nov. 20th 7 p.m.

It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

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

