

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

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

Absent- Steven Corbett and Rachele Natale.

Audience- Helen Chatel, Amy Bell and Mary Bogan.

GUEST SPEAKERS-

- 1) Helen Chatel- Is Executive Director of Watertown Community Access TV. She spoke about projects she had been involved in since starting there, such as helping with Comcast relicensing, collaboration with Watertown Children's Theatre to film original works, upgrading the studio with a new voiceover suite, more cameras, more staff and a new trainer. They plan to film all WHS sports and municipal meetings. The Town Council chambers will be upgraded with new equipment, and old equipment brought down to the Lower Chamber. The encoder will be upgraded with new, more sophisticated software. Carol M spoke of the importance of closed captioning and offered to work with Helen and neighboring communities putting in place a technical assistance program. She requested a closed-captioning sub-committee of WCOD. Helen said that the town website could include facts on what Watertown offers the community. Kim recommended that the WCOD website mention that we offer closed captioning for town council meetings. Gayle will add. Helen said she could link their website to ours. They are working at being more accessible to the community.
- 2) Amy Bell- Is Executive Director of Vocational Advancement Center (VAC). VAC was founded in '57 and provides employment supports to disabled residents in the community. They serve about 200 people each year, performing vocational assessments, finding jobs and supporting people in those jobs (such as one-on-one job coaching), and working with managers on accommodations. Originally started for people with developmental disabilities, they work with all types of disabilities, and are funded by MRC and the Dept of Developmental Disabilities.
- 3) Mary Bogan- from Watertown Prosperity. A 501C3 founded by Ken Woodland in 2011, 5 volunteer members identify needs in the Watertown community and take steps to address them. The first couple of projects have included helping to plan the Watertown Relay for Life and the flag football fundraiser, and they have given WHS scholarships. She outlined a new project of assistance for elderly and disabled for snow shoveling. They are working with the Middle School and the Council on Aging to build and match a list of kids wanting to work for Community Service credits with residents needing help with snow removal. The

- 4) Bus Island Delta- George D didn't think a letter needed to be sent to the MBTA. Buses are accommodating people by moving forward and lowering a ramp. John still thinks he will write a description/summary to send the T.
- 5) Faire on the Square- Carol M said there was one interpreter. We didn't get as many people as previous years due to different traffic flow. A suggestion was made to get balloons next year from Watertown Savings Bank, better signage, and a fact sheet with contact info. Fred suggested a readable map for the Faire.

NEW BUSINESS-

Kim said there was a letter that went out from the Watertown Food Pantry citing a severe need, and she recommended expediting a request. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to donate \$1500 for each Watertown Food Pantry and St. Joseph's Food Pantry.

The next meeting will take place on Wed., Nov. 19th at 7 p.m.

It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

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