

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17th, 2015

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

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Steven Corbett, Town Councilor; John Hawes; Fred Isaacs; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell; Megan O'Halloran; Christine Russo- Intern; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun.

Our guest speaker, Dr Brian Rachmaciej, Director of Special Ed in Watertown, had to cancel and will be rescheduled for our July meeting, if he is available.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim summarized the two funding requests before the Commission from the library, one for the ASL video acquisition and the other to help start the "Library Insiders" UCPA adaptive crafts project. Since the requests are both from the library and we can transfer funds, it was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to authorize a transfer of a total of \$1500 for the WPL for the ASL and Library Insiders projects for \$900 and \$600 respectively. We will ask them to report back on the popularity of the programs.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for May. 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 said there were no new plans. Currently being reviewed are the two new hotels. He wondered how the traffic will be when they are completed.
- b) Closed Caption- Gayle and Carol M. reporting. Helen and Joe were not available for this month's meeting. The Town Council chamber is being worked on now, for installation of 2 phone lines, by Friday (Tues at the latest). Remote captioning will be less expensive than in-house. A date will be set for a phone conversation with Caption First. Gayle will schedule Helen and Pat Graves for the next meeting.
- c) Special Ed- Fred said there will be a planning meeting on June 24th for next year.
- d) Safety and Access- Megan walked around Watertown Square and took pictures. She wrote a report and will send it to Gayle, who will send it to DPW. Only a couple of the tactile strips needed replacing. Kim had a question about the direction of a detectable warning at Riverside and Arsenal. She said that specialists considered it inappropriately positioned and hazardous, pointing people into the intersection instead of toward the crosswalk. Gayle reported that the town engineer will address issues in the original study

as part of the annual sidewalk repair program. John will look at the Coolidge Square and Arsenal St. crossings. Kim requested he look also at the Beechwood intersections at Arsenal and N. Beacon, and the Irving St. intersections. Megan asked who was responsible for upkeep, and Steve replied Ed Batista.

ONGOING BUSINESS-

- a) Handicapped Parking- Jean said there was nothing new.
- b) Comprehensive Plan- Steve said it was going before the council next Tues.
- c) Watertown Design Guidelines- Steve will go to special council meeting on the 30th.
- d) Riverfront Project- John said basic work is finishing by the end of summer. The sidewalk was re-graded and the pedestrian lights are being worked on. Kim said she was asked about the proper height for a guide rope for the Braille trail. 42 in. is too high. John said 34-36 in. would be better. Another project is narrowing Greenough Blvd. from Arsenal to Elliot Bridge.

NEW BUSINESS-

- a) Carol M. announced that the Salem COD is offering Community Access Monitoring course on August 18-19 at Salem State College. WCOD will cover the cost of registration for any commissioners wanting to attend. Also, the Mass Office of Disability has a meeting in Boston on Aug 5th for COD chairs and others.
- b) Kim said that Jeff from MOD was asking if information should be sent to chairs or all members. The Commission agreed that it should be just the chairs, who can then pass on info as appropriate.
- c) Fred recommended the 8-hr psychiatric first aid course that he had just taken through the Diocese of MA and Wayside, and wants to invite the presenters to a future meeting to discuss it more. September was suggested.
- d) Carol M. brought up Faire on the Square, which is most likely on Sat Sept 26th. Gayle said the registration form will come in July and they know we are regulars.

Christine's last official meeting is tonight. Gayle will start advertising for a new intern.

The Commission decided to move our next meeting back to July instead of August.

The next meeting will take place on July 15th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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