

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

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

Audience- Elan Rohde and Laine Tulipano from Watertown Autism Family Support Group; Kathy Button from The World in Watertown; and Annette Farrell, a Watertown resident.

- 1) CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim brought up access funding for the town's inauguration ceremony. It was MOVED, seconded and voted to provide funding for CART and Braille programs for the town inauguration ceremony for elected officials on Jan. 4th. Kim will put on the agenda for next month making a donation for Mental Health First Aid scholarships.
 - 2) GUEST SPEAKERS-
 - a) Elan and Elaine from Watertown Autism Family Support Group provided an overview of their organization, which provides social and recreational opportunities (without social pressure) geared toward the entire family, donates equipment to the Watertown public schools, and provides grants for respite for families. They have a core group of 15 families with over 100 people on their list. They do fundraising themselves, but are requesting a grant from COD of \$1500 to be used toward events in 2016. We will discuss this and vote in December.
 - b) Kathy spoke about the 18th Martin Luther King Jr Unity Breakfast which will take place in January and is usually attended by about 400 people. The speaker will be Andrea James, from Families for Justice as Healing, which supports incarcerated women. She came to request funding for CART, which is \$400. She asked what they can do to make the event more accessible. Carol M stated that 1 in 5 over the age of 12 has a hearing deficit. Kim said we will discuss and vote in Dec.
 - 3) ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the October 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 October. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- John said that there have been no Development meetings the last 3 months.
- 2) Closed Caption- Nothing new. Carol M said we should invite Helen for the December meeting. Gayle will invite her. Kim said folk should tune into the next town council meeting to see if there is captioning.
- 3) Special Ed- Fred said there is a new director, and she is being advised by several other retired special ed directors in budget and curriculum. Sped Pac members would like to be on the agenda in December.
- 4) Safety and Access- Nothing new.

ONGOING-

- 1) Riverfront Project- Kim said it is quiet for the winter. There will be a ceremony in the spring.
- 2) Handicapped Parking- Jeanne stated that curb cuts are being worked on.
- 3) Comprehensive Plan- Nothing new.

NEW BUSINESS-

Kim said that there will be a holiday theme next month with food provided. We will gather at 6:45 p.m. Steve will be completing his tenure as town councilor next month and likely ending his time on the Commission as well.

The next meeting will take place on December 16th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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