

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; 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.

Audience: Susan Flint, Jennifer Quinlan, Bob Shay and Marsha Lenhoff, all from Watertown for All Ages, and David Leon, resident.

GUEST SPEAKERS- Susan Flint said that Watertown for All Ages was established in 2010 and focuses on action at local level to encourage active and healthy aging, and incorporation of older people into the community. Bob Shay spoke about the Age-Friendly Communities initiative, which works toward helping older people stay home longer. As part of a Tufts study, with support from Tufts, Marshall Home, Watertown Community Foundation they are looking at healthy aging in community. They are collaborating with the Boys and Girls Club, Mt. Auburn Hospital and Springwell, and reaching out to town boards to see what programs they have and what is being done well. Jennifer Quinlan spoke of the Aging Movement and collaborations to support older adults such as Memory Café, Greater Lynn Senior Services (project of a health center without walls), and a transportation task force for disabled and older adults. Bob said that Live Well Watertown is dealing with broader health issues and working to complement these other efforts.

David Leon spoke of citizen activities around the Athena and Arsenal developments, and concern about the impact of these large construction projects. He wondered if WCOD could take a greater role in reviewing the universal design aspects of the projects, and earlier in the process. John said that the planning board applies MAAB and ADA rules as much as possible, and that he represents us on that board. He said that an outside reviewer would be good to have. According to John, there are no details until well along in the process. He could request more details earlier and again later. He needs input from Steve Magoon and the Dept of Community Affairs and Planning. Megan asked if anyone has talked to Athena. We should be talking to Steve and Athena, who has been working well with the town and she recommended phrasing it as "accessibility" as opposed to "universal design". Dave gave examples of entranceways, automatic doors, and places to sit. John said there needs to be a list of these things, and asked David to work on one. He also said that landscape architects understand these issues better. Kim asked Gayle to invite a representative from Athena to come talk to us, and Steve Magoon to discuss the process of including accessibility in the planning. Jeanne and David liked the idea of someone from a project meeting with the Commission early in the process.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim spoke of a town-wide procedure for requesting CART. Gayle said that at an upcoming department heads meeting, she would ask about needs for ASL and CART and get feedback. Our budget is the only way to pay for these services (except school board is separate). Kim thought we should continue doing this for the town unless we are overwhelmed, and we should get the word out about captioning and Braille. Our role is to provide assistance for residents to communicate with town government. John said he thought the town has a responsibility.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the minutes as corrected 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-

- 1) No Plans Review or Safety and Access reports.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Gayle said they got the signed contract back from Caption First, now it goes to the town manager, secretary, Cable Access and office staff to coordinate. They will practice in July before going live. Carol M. would like to be involved in this.
- 3) Special Ed- Fred said there was a planning meeting taking place tonight.

NEW BUSINESS-

- 1) There will be a transportation public forum tomorrow night 6/16 6:30 p.m. at the library.
- 2) Kim said she and Carol M. were interviewed for AARP about "liveable communities".
- 3) The DCR is setting a date for the formal dedication of the riverside Braille trail in July.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on July 20th at 7 p.m.

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