

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes, Vice-Chair; Carol Menton; Megan O'Halloran; Elan Rohde; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Audience- Charlie Creagh, from Alta Planning and Design.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim stated that she received an official resignation from Jeanne O'Connell. We are now down to 7 members and need to reach out for new members. We need a strong representation on the Commission of people with disabilities. Carol M said she thought that the by-laws called for a proportion of 50% disabled people on the commission. Gayle will check.

GUEST SPEAKER- Charlie Creagh spoke about the Watertown Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. Alta Planning and Design is headquartered in Portland OR, with an office in Cambridge. They specialize in bicycle and pedestrian planning and design in challenging corridors. They are funded by Mass Dot, and work for DPW. They are gathering feedback from town residents and groups such as us about problem areas to address, recommendations and requests to make our streets, sidewalks and intersections safer for pedestrians, wheelchairs, bicycles. There are four categories- pedestrians, bicycles, transit, and traffic and safety. They look at crossings, buffers, signage, bike lanes, traffic calming, etc. There will be a public meeting in March. Kim asked if a meeting could be set up in Feb with the blind community, to which Charlie readily agreed. He said recommendations are being received from the community until Apr 6th.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle reported that \$2000 was unencumbered and made available again. Most of the expenses are for CART and closed caption. In a matter related to CART, Carol M said there were problems hearing events at the Mosesian Theatre, uneven reception with their loop system. She said she would talk to folks at the theatre about it. A full-time parking enforcement person started this week, which should increase our income again. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for Dec. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- No new projects, per John. He announced he is stepping down from the planning board, where he has been for 23 years. He stated it needs new blood.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Carol M contacted Helen from Cable and Caption First about the issue of when power point is used in town council meetings, which interferes with captioning. She is waiting for a response and will report in March.
- 3) Special Ed- Elan reported that the Parent Advisory Council met the new superintendant about safety and access, and director of student services about refocusing resources. They want to meet with the latter monthly. They are redirecting students with special needs to different teachers and the children are benefitting.
- 4) Safety and Access- No report.

NEW BUSINESS-

Carol M said that she wanted to invite a veteran services officer to a meeting, stating that veterans are coming back from overseas with hearing loss and traumatic brain injury. Gayle will ask Mark Comeiro to come in March.

The next meeting will take place on March 21st at 7 p.m. There is no meeting in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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