

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 16th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Megan O'Halloran, substitute chair.

ROLL CALL- Lissa Gifford; Carol Menton; Megan O'Halloran; Elan Rohde; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Kim Charlson, Chair; John Hawes, Vice-Chair, and Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor.

CHAIR'S REPORT-

- 1) Dog Park update- Gayle had emailed Steve Magoon requesting an update. The sidewalk bid is going out this month and the work will be done in this season.
- 2) Delta/MBTA access- Lissa talked with a #71 bus driver who didn't think there was a problem with access. He pulls the bus forward from the island for someone in a wheelchair to board. We still want to send a letter to the MBTA. Elan will edit the letter, and Gayle will include the draft at our next meeting. We will review it and Megan will send.
- 3) Post Office Automatic Door- It was determined that private property cannot use public funds for the door. A letter will be helpful to the real estate broker, Mr. Whitney. A dentist, Mr Salvusti is part owner. Councilor Tony Palumbo will write a letter of support, and the Commission determined that it should have 3 signatures- Tony and Lisa for the Council, and Lissa for the Commission. Lissa said she found a tax write-off that can be helpful, and gave info to Tony.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the minutes as corrected from the April 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 April. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- Megan reported for Lisa. There will be a community meeting on 5/23 about the development plans for 101-2 Morse St. It was originally planned for 50 units, but was reduced to 36. Also, in '08 there was a review of the town's Open Space and Recreation. Another review is coming up. This should be put on the agenda for next month.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Carol M. said that she or someone would watch for quality of the captioning at the upcoming budget meeting. Caption First and Helen will talk about the presentation beforehand, and Tom, who runs the power point presentation can send an old presentation so they can anticipate the same or similar format. Gayle said that the

final budget meeting will be the first Tuesday in June. She said there was a scheduling glitch two weeks ago when cable was there for an executive session but not for the regular session which followed. The captioner was cancelled at the last minute, so we will still be billed for it.

3) Special Ed- no report per Elan.

NEW BUSINESS-

Gayle said we will be getting an intern from Fisher College for up to 15 hours a week for 3-6 months. The student responded to an ad. He is majoring in sports management and Gayle thought that would mesh with the Recreation Dept and ADA matters. She plans for him to spend time in different departments to see how government works and learn about its relationship to the ADA. He will also write articles and complete studies. Carol M. suggested a project with the Girls and Boys Club. Megan suggested he could work with social media. He will be introduced in June.

Carol M led a brief discussion of Faire on the Square, and wondered how to proactively make sure it is accessible and that we get a prominent spot for our table.

Carol M said we would have a disabled veteran as a guest next month.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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