

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Kim Charlson-Chair.

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

AUDIENCE- Harriet Sheets, New Repertory Theatre; and Victoria Butera, Assistant Function Coordinator, Commander's Mansion (discuss Alzheimer's advocacy) and her mother Diane Butera; Mr. Forte, resident.

GUEST SPEAKERS- 1) Harriet Sheets came to speak about the New Repertory request for funding of accessibility for the show 1776. A proposal had been provided totaling \$4,000. There was some discussion, and the WCOD has supported accessibility for shows in the past. This request will be on the next agenda for discussion and vote.

Ms. Butera provided a presentation of her advocacy work for people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and the new law that was passed by Governor Baker to make sure that medical providers are trained to identify the signs of early onset Alzheimer's disease. She brought brochures for the WCOD bookshelf outside of the Personnel Department and some will be included at the WCOD table for Faire on the Square.

Mr. Forte came to speak about the issue of accessibility at Howe dog park. He talked to the landscaper. There was a discussion about the fact that the pitch of Bacon Street is too steep. John Hawes talked about the handicapped space at the top of the grade at Bacon Street entrance, that Mr. Forte's daughter's opinion was that it was ok, but Mr. Forte thinks it's too steep going down. John stated that Mr. Magoon CD&P Director/Assistant Town Manager indicated that the money is there and it would be done. Councilor Feltner stated that we had the impression that it would be all done at the same time and suggested that the WCOD submit a question to the Town Manager. John will formulate the question for Kim to write which will then be sent to the Town Manager and Mr. Magoon.

CHAIR'S REPORT -

Delta & MBTA Buss Access - Kim talked about the response from the MBTA from the letter that was sent from the WCOD regarding the Delta. Handouts had been provided previously for review. The MBTA did a bus stop assessment which provided a lot of good information and that the repair of the Delta is a high priority. Gayle will share the WCOD letter and the MBTA response with the Town Manager, DPW, and Mr. Magoon if they haven't already been shared.

Post Office Automatic Door Issue - There was a follow up discussion about the letter to the Salusti Trust regarding the lack of an accessible door to the post office. There has been no response to the letter. Elan said that she will be seeing her contact there this evening.

Howe Dog Park – already discussed

Faire on the Square Planning was discussed. There are many brochures for the table and 300 jar openers have been ordered as a give-away. A discussion of who would be able to sit at the table and that Carol has requested ASL for the Faire.

Website accessibility was discussed as Kim said the ENOTICE system on the Town's website is not accessible to her. When she clicks on a headline, a PDF opens which can't be read. The attachments need to be in a format that can be read by those with a vision impairment.

Lime Bike Concerns was discussed and generally everyone felt that the situation of leaving bikes where they block sidewalk access has improved.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the July minutes. Copies of the minutes can be found on the Town's website.

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- ONGOING BUSINESS

Plans Review- John said that the Perkins School variance had an appeal hearing and the variance was approved.

Captioning Update- Carol M and Gayle talked about an August Town Council meeting that couldn't be closed captioned. The problem was that there needed to be a switch turned off and then on. This will be added to the "trouble shooting" protocol between CaptionFirst and Watertown Cable Access.

Special Education Update - There were no reports for Special Ed

Safety and Access – Kim said that there is a section of wire down on the Braille Trail and hasn't been fixed in a month. Kim has notified DCR. She also talked about the new technology using the camera on a phone linked to a company representative that can guide someone who has a vision disability through Wegman's grocery stores nation-wide. Wegman's is providing the phone minutes while shopping for free.

NEW BUSINESS- John Hawes talked about the Aging in Place program and that Bob Shay asked him if someone could be recommended from the WCOD to be part of the larger group. Everyone was in favor of that and Kim will appoint John to represent the WCOD.

The next meeting will take place on October 17th at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Gayle Shattuck, Personnel
Director/ADA Coordinator