Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Oct 16th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; Lissa Gifford; John Hawes; Carol Menton; Megan O'Halloran; Naomi Ridge; Elan Rohde; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator and Carol Wilson-Braun.
Audience- Caitlin Browne from the Watertown Public Library.

GUEST SPEAKER- Caitlin Browne gave us an update of the ADA modifications being made to the WPL. We had given them $2500. Work was completed on automatic doors and the front patio. $422.50 was left. Caitlin offered to return it to the Commission, or they could use it for CART for upcoming programs. There will be a One Book One Watertown event in the spring. Carol M recommended arranging for CART well ahead of time. Kim suggested that the library consider a non-partisan gathering to hear candidates before the March elections. It was moved, seconded and VOTED to allow the remainder of the amount to be used for CART services.

CHAIR'S REPORT- a) Faire on the Square Debrief- Carol M said that the table had been on the field and was not very accessible. Also, the speakers were blaring right at us. We had the table moved to a different location in the shade. John wondered if we could get some organization to give us a tent. Carol W-B said that the DPW had a table covering with their name printed on it. The DPW said they could give info to Gayle about it. Megan said she could talk to Kelly Cronin the month before next year's Faire about the location of our table.
b) Watertown Bicycle –Pedestrian Committee Meeting- Lissa met with Laura Weiner who wants to hear from us about what we would like to be addressed. What things need to be fixed for Perkins people? The Commission talked about several street/sidewalk/signal issues. Lissa said to send info to her and she will forward to Laura. Lisa and John both commented that the town needs to do a townwide survey to gather information they seek. There should be a system of getting feedback from citizens, and the process should be ongoing. Naomi spoke of the Safe Routes to Schools program, and also commented that Click-Fix of the DPW is limited. Kim will give Perkins feedback to Laura. Megan will summarize her comments and give to Gayle.
c) Watertown/Coolidge Parking Plan Update- Lisa said the town council voted on the top 10 ideas for implementation.
d) Food Pantry Donation- It was moved, seconded and VOTED to give Watertown Food Pantry and St Patrick's food pantry each $1500 for a total of $3000 for their work in the community.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle said that $3000 of encumbrances are carried over from last year and can be liquidated. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for Sept. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

a) Plans- John gave updates on Pleasant St, Arlington St and the Doble Engineering projects. For the latter, the park between Arsenal and Walnut is being regraded to be accessible.
b) Closed Captioning- Kim presented a draft of a caption letter for town council. Suggestions were given. Gayle, Megan and Elan will work on edits.
c) Special Ed- Elan said there were no updates.
d) Safety and Access- There was a discussion of audible signals and detectable warnings. The signal at Common and Katharine needs to have an audible feature. Gayle said that Gerry Mee is sending out an electrician to check audible signals. The new roundabout was discussed, and there was concern whether the configuration of the rotary would require the northbound Common St traffic to yield. Gayle will communicate with Gerry.

NEW BUSINESS-

Lisa mentioned that we could recognize White Cane Awareness Day which will be on Oct 15th next year. Maybe the town council could make a resolution. Kim agreed and said maybe we could have the town manager and Gerry Mee cross Watertown Square blindfolded with a cane!

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

The next meeting will be on Wed. Nov 20th at 7 p.m.