

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Carol Wilson-Braun, Secretary.

ROLL CALL- Carol Wilson-Braun, Councilor Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; Lissa Gifford; Carol Menton; Megan O'Halloran; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; Naomi Ridge.

Not attending: Kim Charlson, John Hawes, Elan Rohde

Audience- Nini Silver from Milton

AUDIENCE ISSUES- none

GUEST SPEAKERS- none

CHAIR'S REPORT-

1) Marshall Home Fund request for CART services for the Awards ceremony was made last month but no specific dollar amount was requested. After discussion a motion was made to have the WCOD support up to \$250, approximately half for the Marshall Home Fund Awards Ceremony for CART, seconded and unanimously approved.

2) CVS Parking lot Update- Gayle said she had talked with Gerry Mee and Mr. Mee said he would have the light pole moved. Lissa Gifford said that she saw Mr. Hayward (DPW Supervisor of the Tree Division/Tree Warden) there and that she's going to make sure it doesn't interfere with the root structure of the bush so she thanked him profusely. Councilor Feltner said that she saw an example of a pedestrian friendly light with a smaller base and sent it to Kim, John, and DPW.

3) How Dog Park Update - Gayle said that Matt Shuman the town engineer and Gerry Mee went to the site. They will build a concrete pad and will look to put in a bench. Discussion about benches with no arms as preferable.

4) Athena Garage – This was John's agenda item. Counselor Feltner said things are in flux with Athena with the different ownership so she didn't know the status of the gravel issue but the problem belongs to Athena. Counselor Feltner thought that the Planning Department was going to follow up.

5) Watertown Pedestrian Bicycle Plan - Counselor Feltner said that she had forwarded the draft scope of work that was presented to the Town Council, that includes the Steering Committee and which Lissa has volunteered to serve on. A request for proposal for contract for a consultant to work with the town to develop that plan went out recently.

6) Handicapped sign request from last month's discussion. This issue was discussed with Sgt. Sampson last month and that the Commission told him that we supported a handicapped parking space as long as the business owner know that he doesn't have exclusive rights to the parking space. No further action needed.

7) Watertown and Coolidge Square Parking Plans - Councilor Feltner said that there was another open house with a presentation of the draft. Gayle said that May 7th was the strategic presentation which was emailed to the WCOD before the meeting; there are no other meetings scheduled yet. Councilor Feltner said that they will have to come back to Town Council and committee level too so it's ongoing. Carol Wilson-Braun suggested that the WCOD send a representative to those meetings.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- Gayle had a suggested edit, Carol asked for a motion to accept the April minutes, was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle reported that a new full time parking enforcement officer was hired. The Treasurer's report was given. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Plans- no plan reviews this month

Captioning – There was a discussion about the assessment of IT town-wide, that there are scanned documents on the website that are not searchable and can't be read aloud if they don't have text component. CivicPlus will interface with all the Boards and Commissions for input. Carol M suggested that captioning could be imbedded in the plan; that the WCOD can help formulate the right language. Ongoing discussion of the inability of the WCOD continuing to financially support closed captioning of town council meetings paired with the problems that our cable station is facing financially due to the FCC. Possible action plan is to connect with the Town to give feedback related to accessibility on the IT plan and also inform the Town that we can no longer afford to pay for captioning and would like policy guidance from Town Council about town support for captioning. Carol M will follow up with Kim to draft a letter.

Special Ed- Elan is absent today so nothing to report.

Safety and Access- Gayle talked to Gerry Mee about the signal at Lexington St. and Warren intersection. Lexington Street is currently under construction so requests for improvement would be included in a project plan. Naomi said that Lexington St. has been under construction for possibly two years. Councilor Feltner said she will mention it to Councilor Piccirilli, Chair of the Public Works committee to see if there are options for audible signal.

NEW BUSINESS-

Naomi said that the concrete is crumbling Belmont St. sidewalk past the village and then at the

intersection of Lexington and Orchard street where the ramp is going up. Megan said that she and John did a spreadsheet of the condition of the ramps that had plastic coating and she thought they were fixed. Lissa said that when she reported to DPW they fixed it right away. Nini Silver suggested that there might be a grant to evaluate the curb cuts as there was in Boston. Naomi said that each year DPW comes up with a list of streets that they're going to repave. Councilor Feltner said that it was the Town Council Public Works Committee that had to vote to be a Complete Streets Community, a compact with the state which has grants to pursue and there is a category for accessibility. Matt Shuman, Town Engineer had said that when they are evaluating projects they are thinking maybe they should weigh priorities to include sidewalks. Megan said that we should be asking "how can we work with you to get this done, almost like a map of Watertown, color coded for the condition of the sidewalk because they all can't be fixed at once. Councilor Feltner said that there was an assessment but it was a while ago and not sure if it has been updated but she did ask for an inventory of the sidewalks.

New Business - Councilor Feltner had two announcements. On May 23rd Kim is getting an award by the Mosesian at the Arts for All celebration. Also the Library has a solution for the sliding glass doors which will give more time to get in and out.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 19th at 7 p.m.
It was moved, seconded and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Gayle Shattuck.