

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT-

- a) CVS Parking Lot- Gayle said there was no update. John said maybe they are not replacing the light.
- b) How Dog Park- Gayle said that Gerry Mee mentioned the issue of drainage. They will put in a concrete pad for wheelchairs. Naomi recommended a bench with arms at either end. Gayle will pass it on to Gerry.
- c) Park at Athena Garage- Lisa said no updates. Gideon is following up with the problem.
- d) Watertown Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan- Lissa went to the meeting. The plan does not include wheelchairs. But wheelchairs have to be able to go everywhere that people walk. The committee is sending it out for consultation and will evaluate bids when they come in. John mentioned that each month there is a developers' conference where town projects are reviewed and nothing is ever mentioned in writing about disabilities. It was agreed that the role of WCOD is to be a presence to remind people of the ADA and importance of accessibility.
- e) WCOD Representative to Watertown and Coolidge Parking Plan Process- Lisa said there would be a meeting July 11 at town hall to present findings. We will continue to discuss in July.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle said it was discovered that expenditures for interns had not been recorded since 2006. This means our total is \$30,569 less. Our balance is more than when Gayle came in 2004, but much less than we are used to. Gayle is looking for another intern, but will pay out of her own account. Regarding closed captioning, Lisa said she or Gayle could ask the budget committee to consider the cost of closed captioning to be a part of the town budget. The budget process will start in Sept. Kim and Gayle will gather historical budget numbers. John said he would look at the budget and sort out recurring expenses. The three will work together. Gayle said the full-time position for parking enforcement was filled, but then the part-time person retired.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- A) Plans- Lisa said that there were concerns about pedestrians and the driveway for the 101 N. Beacon apartment building proposal. There will be a community meeting 6/26 on site.
- B) Closed Captioning Update- none
- C) Special Ed- Elan asked given the construction of new schools, does she need to make sure there is accessibility? Kim suggested asking what their accommodations are as they progress. Lisa said Mark Sideris and Jon Portz are on the building committee. Designs are being finalized soon. Naomi said the Cunniff is used for many Special Ed gatherings. She and Elan will follow up.
- D) Safety and Access- Kim. 1) Audible signal at Warren and Lexington- Gerry Mee said that construction was being done there and nothing was being done right now about it. 2) Detectable warnings at Lexington and Main- Gerry said it could probably be done outside of budget. 3) Pedestrian Signal at Lexington and Orchard- There will be a request for improvement in a future project plan. Lisa said bids were now going out in March. Naomi said that when Lexington St is finished, these things need to be done. #1 and 3 are on a school route.

NEW BUSINESS-

- 1) Gayle said there was a request from COA to cover interpreter services for a deaf client who needed to see the town social worker. A 2nd meeting is planned for the social worker to fill out papers. They were given information for Mass Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We can vote on this next month. Gayle will have the invoice(s). Kim will recommend to the COA that they include money in their next budget for interpreters.
- 2) John and Lisa were at the Mosesian Center event in May, where Kim was honored. Kim is going to D.C tomorrow to be presented the Francis Joseph Campbell award for career achievement for the library.
- 3) Faire on Square is on Sept 28th.
- 4) Lisa said there is a special public forum at the library next Sunday at 2:30 about media and public outreach with Watertown Community Conversations. They will discuss how residents want to increase engagement with town government. There will be a survey at the Faire.
- 5) Kim announced that Watertown for All Ages is having transportation focus groups and one will be held at Perkins next Thurs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wed. July 17th at 7 p.m. Elan and Naomi will be absent.

