

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by John Hawes, Vice-Chair.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT-

- a) Faire on the Square- Takes place Sept 28. Carol M and Carol W can help. We will do more through email to plan.
- b and c) no updates for How Dog Park or Park at Athena.
- d) Pedestrian bicycle plan- Lissa said that three companies presented proposals and the group seemed to like one vender the best, which talked about universal design. Lisa reported that Laura said they might start this fall, and that the next meeting would be 8/3.
Lissa reported that the light pole in the CVS parking lot was moved today, to which there was much applause. The Commission will send a thank you to Gerry Mee with a cc to Mike Driscoll.
- e) Coolidge/Watertown Square Parking- Lisa said the meeting did not happen and was rescheduled to Aug 27 at 6:30. Laura Weiner will present an executive summary. Draft documents are on line. There is not much specific info at this point about accessibility. Lisa asked about off street parking.
- f) Watertown for All Ages Transportation Focus Group- John went to the meeting, and said there were 6 low vision people there speaking about their concerns. Traffic concerns were addressed. Perkins input was helpful but didn't address seniors.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- John put together an expense report summarizing CART (for WCOD, Council and other), grants, recurring costs and misc. We discussed other meetings that might be helpful to have CART. The main thing is that our revenue will be less than our expenses, and half of the budget is for CART. The town needs to help pay. We can talk to Mark Sideris, the town manager, and Tom Tracy. Our budget comes under the town manager, so he will be involved in any decisions. As our budget comes from handicapped parking violations, Carol M suggested the officers look for violations on busy afternoons and nights, such as the Wed eve concerts. There is a townwide IT assessment. Boards and commissions are giving feedback. Carol M mentioned that there is Live Transcribe on Androids from Galludet Univ, which is good for one on one interactions.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- a) Plans- John said there was nothing new. He stated that MAAB regulations don't apply to condos, but do for rental units. Affordable units apply to both.
- b) and c) Nothing new.
- c) Safety and Access- Gayle gave Gerry what our 3 priorities were and our recommendation about the bench in How dog park.

NEW BUSINESS-

- a) Discussion of the ASL interpreter request from last month. Moved, seconded and VOTED to approve up to \$500 for ASL interpreter costs for 2 meetings between a Watertown resident and the social worker at the Senior Center.
- b) Lissa gave an update about accessibility of the Bank of America, reporting that the bank put a delay on the automatic door which isn't long enough. She scraped her knee trying to get through, and then confronted a woman who was covering for the manager. Megan suggested that the Commission should write a letter of concern, and all agreed. Gayle will write and send the draft to us.
- c) Carol W-B reported attending a dedication ceremony for the Elsa Abele Training Center of AANE (Asperger/Autism Network) on Water St in Watertown on July 13th. The training center helps people with Aspergers learn social skills. The center was the idea of and named after a friend of Carol W's family.
- d) Gayle said she had received a thank you from the Marshall Fund for help with CART for their awards ceremony.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.
The next meeting will be on Wed. Sept 18th at 7 p.m. We do not meet in August.