

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Nov. 15th, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes, Vice-Chair; Carol Menton,; Megan O'Halloran; Elan Rohde; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Jeanne O'Connell and Mohammad (Moh) Sayed. Audience- Chuck Dickenson and Kathy Button of the Unity Breakfast Committee.

CHAIR'S REPORT- 1) Howard Street Dog Park. John said that it was a bit unclear exactly what was going to be happening. There is now an opening in the fence, and he believes that a sidewalk will be put in there. The sidewalk will have to be plowed in the winter. There is no curb cut on the street. Lisa said the issue of accessible parking should go to the Traffic Commission. John will send an email to Gerry Mee, Steve Magoon and Mike Driscoll. Kim asked Gayle to see if she could get Steve Magoon to our next meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS- Kathy Button spoke about the 18th annual Unity Breakfast on Martin Luther King Jr Day this next Jan. and requested \$400 to help fund CART for the event, which includes speakers, awards, winning essays from the middle school and high school and music. Kathy and Chuck said they are also contemplating requesting an ASL interpreter in the future, as some people have said that the interpreter may be better for a number of folks due to language literacy. Carol said that an ASL interpreter may attract folks from beyond Watertown. Kim suggested that a flyer should ask people to request an interpreter by a certain date, to make sure there is a need. Chuck said that no one has made a request in 5 years, but the option wasn't offered. Kim said the Commission would vote at our Dec meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT- cont'd. 2) Kim said that the Watertown Square Improvement meeting was well attended. Carol W-B said there was standing room only with overflow into the hallway. The number of people who showed up took the councilors by surprise. Concern was expressed about the traffic patterns and the effect of increased traffic on the neighborhoods. The process is still in the early stages and people's opinions were heard. A person was hired by the DPW for communication. There will be more meetings.

3) Holiday activities- Gayle will order food for our next meeting. Megan and Elan volunteered to bring dessert. We will gather at 6:45 p.m. Kim brought up the donations to the two Watertown pantries. It was moved, seconded and VOTED to contribute \$1500 each to the Watertown Food Pantry and the St. Patrick's Food Pantry.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle noted that our expenses are mostly CART, for our meetings and town council. She will sort out which encumbrances are no longer valid. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for Oct. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans- Nothing new, per John.
- 2) Closed Captioning- There was a discussion by several members about how the captioning is going, related to the graphics problem a couple months ago. It was agreed that Caption First and Watertown Cable should keep communicating, with Caption First being notified in advance if special adjustments are needed. Stefanie thought it might be a network issue instead. Megan again mentioned the need for sponsorship to help pay. Lisa said she has mentioned it to Mark Sideris, and Kim voiced the opinion that the kinks need to be worked out first. Megan said that our name should be there as a sponsor of closed captioning.
- 3) SPED PAC- Elan reported they had their first meeting and covered basic rights.
- 4) Safety and Access- No report, per Kim.

NEW BUSINESS-

Elan announced that the Watertown Autism group is having a holiday party on 12/3 from 12-2:30 p.m. at the Watertown Boys and Girls Club, with swimming, crafts and a potluck. They are trying to partner with an organization called TILL (Towards Independent Living and Learning) for help with funding for people outside of Watertown. For more information, people can contact her at elanrohde@gmail.com, or wafsg1@gmail.com.

Lisa announced a meeting about the Mount Auburn St corridor and bicycle and pedestrian safety on Mon Nov 20th. They will discuss that subject at 7:15, but the meeting starts at 6:30.

The next meeting will take place on December 20th at 7 p.m., with food at 6:45 p.m.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Carol Wilson-Braun, Secretary.