

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 19th, 2017

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

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes; Jeanne O'Connell; Elan Rohde; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Carol Menton, Megan O'Halloran and Mohammad (Moh) Sayed. Audience- Priscilla Sinclair, a nursing student in health policy at Regis.

CHAIR'S REPORT- 1) Lisa shared her report with public safety and public works departments highlighting 13 potential improvements. Planning Board and DPW will take it into consideration. Elan voiced a concern for traffic management options and lighting for Louise St, as 3 severely disabled children live in that neighborhood. Lisa said that Louise would have ADA curb cuts. And in general the focus of the project was on signals, roads and bikes but not as clear a plan for pedestrians. Kim wanted it noted that Lisa has done a tremendous job with attention to disability regarding this project. She also recommended bringing on a nationally recognized consultant to look at key areas and intersections, audible signals, who knows traffic laws- Dr Billie Louise Bentzen. Lisa announced that zoning just got modified to allow for an assisted living facility at the site of the Super 8.

2) Kim said that the commission needs to elect a vice-chair for leading the meetings when she is away, for example at our next meeting in Sept. John H. volunteered and it was VOTED unanimously to have John serve as our vice-chair. Kim said that Ken Woodland will come in Sept to talk about Watertown Prosperity.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. 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 that Phase III of the Arsenal Yard project is coming up. Town departments review very little detail. He is keeping track of accessible spaces. He requested that the commission be allowed to see final plans when they go to the building inspector. John mentioned that Elon Greystar has applied for a variance for a deck with shallow pool on top of the sub-ground garage on the north side. They want a lift as opposed to a ramp due to limited area for seating. It was the consensus of the Commission that we not recommend that the MAAB approve the variance. The planners will have to figure it out a little better. There

was a minor issue of accessible kitchens and the depth of the sinks which he and we didn't consider significant.

b) Closed Captioning and Special Ed- no reports.

c) Safety and Access- Lisa said that hearings for Arsenal Park would be happening soon.

Athena wants to open up the access from the Commander's Mansion to the park. Right now it is a small opening. The first meeting will be on August 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

Public input is wanted about access for people and bicycles, improvements to the traffic pattern. The Recreation Commission has the final say. Also, Lisa reported that there is movement on the redesign of the town website. She requested suggestions about content and links for the WCOD page by Sept 15th. An attempt is being made to make the website more user friendly rather than strictly by department. Elan mentioned she'd like easier ways to pay bills and make reservations than coming into town hall. Kim asked commission members to think about what we would like to see on the revised WCOD page. Lisa will send out a separate request for feedback. Lisa asked how many years we can archive. Kim said she was a big fan of archiving.

NEW BUSINESS-

Fair on the Square is coming up on Sat Sept 23rd. Gayle will order any needed supplies. Let her know of anything that needs to be included. She will ask George Donahue and the Recreation Department. We will sign up for times to staff the table during our Sept meeting.

The next meeting will take place on September 20th at 7:00 p.m. There is no meeting in August.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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