

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

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

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Patrick George, ADA Coordinator; John Hawes; Carol Menton; Naomi Ridge; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; Rachel Kay; and Megan O'Halloran.

CHAIR'S REPORT-

Kim said that she would invite the director of Deaf, Inc to our August or September meeting.

- 1) DPW and trash toters- Kim said there was nothing new.
- 2) Public Captioning Ordinance- Kim reported that Lisa said the topic would probably come up in the city council meeting in August. They will determine an implementation date.
- 3) Overnight Parking Signage at Arsenal Yard- Naomi said that external parking spaces that include accessible spaces are labelled No Overnight Parking. Carol M wondered about spaces for delivery people. Naomi said that there are 15-minute limit delivery spaces. Patrick will add more when he joins the meeting. Someone asked if it was a violation of ADA to have time limits on HP parking. Naomi said that if applied to all the parking spaces in a private lot, it is OK to limit. Patrick had computer problems, and joined after #4. He said he has talked to the police. Kim asked him to call the ADA Business and Technical Assistance Center.
- 4) City Staff Accessibility Awareness Training- Kim said that a deaf person made a formal complaint of not being treated very well at City Hall. It was decided that there needs to be mandatory formal training for city workers/staff/councilors/as well as board members and commissioners on how to provide services for the disabled (deaf, blind, people with mobility issues, etc). Carol M said that she and Mass Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing could help. Kim asked if they charged for trainings, and Carol said no. Carol said that she had connected Patrick to Zoe. She also asked if the trainings could be recorded. Kim said yes. Carol M mentioned that EMTs use tablets. Kim said that Perkins has been working with the police. The first responders are interested in the training. Naomi said that some webinars have been recorded on disability rights and responsibilities. Kim will discuss with Patrick, who will work with city staff. Kim will report back in August and plan to roll out trainings in the fall.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the city's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office or viewed on the Watertown website document center.

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously by roll call 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. Patrick said that the donation for the Community Fridge was pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans- John said there was nothing new.
- 2) Special Ed- Naomi said that is was the end of the school year. Students will be moving into a temporary High School in the fall and moving back into the Lowell School hopefully by the beginning of October.
- 3) Safety and Access- a) Kim said that the cracks in the sidewalks near Belmont and Lexington St. still need to be addressed. Detectable warnings have been installed. b) Curbing- Naomi said that some streets near Warren have asphalt curbing (Cleveland Rd, King, Chapman). Kim said she would make an inquiry to DPW, and asked John and Naomi to take photos. c) Detectable warnings at Lexington and Main- Kim said no updates.

NEW BUSINESS-

Kim said she had talked with Bedford COD, and realized that we have done some good stuff!

Naomi wondered about an update on new members being appointed. Kim said we have to use the city process. We used to make a recommendation to the city manager. We should continue to do that, to state what characteristics we are looking for in a member. She will follow up. Patrick said that he would call Elizabeth Cremens of the Residents Advisory Committee. He wanted to know if we could come up with the top 3 important features in a new members. Naomi was wondering if we were going to lose Rachel, who is running for the School Board. John thought that people may be able to serve on 2 committees (if one is elected and one is appointed).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next meeting of WCOD will take place via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wed, August 16th, 2023. There will be no meeting in July.