



Hingham Commission on Disabilities

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Stephanie Gertz, Chair; Diane DeNapoli, Vice-Chair; Sharon Allen, Treasurer; Megan Baker, Secretary; Keith Jermyn, SCPO; Jane McGrath
Members Absent: Mike Clancy

Call to Order

At 7:03 p.m., Chair Gertz called the meeting to order, read the Open Meeting Law statement, and asked whether anyone is recording the meeting. No response. The Town of Hingham is recording the meeting.

Public Comments

There were none.

Review of Minutes - February 8, 2023

MOTION: S. Allen moved to approve the February minutes with edits.
SECONDED: J. McGrath
ROLL CALL VOTE: S. Allen, aye; M. Baker, aye; D. DeNapoli, aye; S. Gertz, aye; K. Jermyn, aye. None opposed.
MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Budget/Finances

- There is \$500,000 in Capital for FY2024.
- No funds in the Five-Year Plan are earmarked for ADA work.
- There should be an ADA Plan with sub-committees comprised of different departments that meet quarterly to see if ADA compliance projects are progressing.
- The Schools are proactively advancing ADA projects.
- Chair Gertz will follow-up with Art Robert prior to the April CoD meeting.
- **TAC** is a funding source in Town which funds benefit the elderly and disabled population. Presently, there may be a \$50,000 balance. **TAC** is unstaffed.

Account Balances

➤ Handicapped Parking fees	= \$ 792
➤ Gifts to the CoD	= \$1,111
TOTAL	\$1,903

Scituate Accessibility Event

- Scituate Commission on Disabilities will work with Hingham on a joint accessibility event.
- Hingham CoD members will follow-up with Scituate to see if therapy dogs can be included in the event.
- Perhaps the event can include more communities and become a South Shore Accessibility Event.

Town Mental Health Event

- The Town will hold a mental health event on April 12 on Suicide Prevention.
- Members discussed the need for a more general mental health event with low barriers to access which would not cause stigma for anyone considering to attend. It would have been a good idea to record the session to enable access for those who could not attend.
 - This event could take place this summer or fall.
 - You have to hear the message in many places at many times to reach the person you're trying to reach
 - Partners could include Commission on Disabilities, sports partners, SNAP, etc.

Town Annual Report

- Members screen shared the document and "word-smithed" their edits.
- "2022" Town Annual Report
- Take out "integration of persons with disabilities".
- Take out "disabilities" issues and replace with "disability issues".
- Change "participate" to "participating"
- Change "encourage" to "encouraging"
- Change "American Disabilities Act" to "American with Disabilities Act"
- Change Jane McGrath, a "long-term" Hingham resident to "long-time" Hingham resident
- Change "Ms. Allen" to "Sharon Allen".
- Add "violations" to "Handicap" tickets
- Add \$1,000 donor's name and title, Special Needs Officer Lt. Murphy.
- Add "Hingham" to Patrolmen's Golf Tournament.
- Replace the paragraph on "making the Town Meeting more accessible" with the paragraph submitted by Ms. DeNapoli.
- Capitalize Town "administrator".
- Add an "s" to Art Robert name.
- Add "also" to The Commission would like to acknowledge.
- Capitalize "commission"
- Add "which" to throughout her term "which" charted new paths for the Commission
- Drop "throughout her term"
- Correct Megan Baker's term to 2025
- Correct Mike Clancy's title removing "member"
- Correct Sharon Allen's title from "member" to "At-Large"

Two members will review the document.

Ms. DeNapoli will submit a photo.

The document will be submitted 3/9/23.

MOTION: Ms. DeNapoli moved to accept the Annual Town Report as presented by Chair Stephanie Gertz.

SECONDED: S. Allen

ROLL CALL VOTE: S. Allen, aye; M. Baker, aye; S. Gertz, aye; K. Jermyn, SCPO, aye; Jane McGrath, aye. None opposed.

MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

ADA & Town Website Update

- The Town web site needs some work to be accessible to hearing and site impaired individuals.
- The IT department needs to convert documents to .pdf to be legible beginning with the ADA Survey.
- Art Roberts enlisted Bill Hartigan to assist in leading the accessibility of the Town web site.
- Members will submit names of any willing sight impaired or dyslexic persons to review the site's accessibility to Ms. Baker within two weeks.

Next Meeting

In-person meeting at Town Hall with a Hybrid Zoom option, 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Thoughts on Officers for Next Year

- Vice-Chair DeNapoli will be stepping off the Commission on Disabilities in June 2023.
- Members expressed gratitude for her tenure and look forward to working with her in other capacities.

Matters not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting.

ADU Accessory Dwelling Units

Liaison DeNapoli reported:

- Planning Board voted 4-1 in favor of affirming the suggested warrant language that ADU's be detached.
- Because some people were uncomfortable with the Planning Board decision, the matter will be put before the AdCom Committee, the Select Board, and the townspeople at Town Meeting. All will have opportunity to hear what the Planning board is suggesting.
- Members discussed the outcome of the vote and the composition of the Bylaw Review Study Committee.

Adjourn

MOTION: S. Allen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm.
SECONDED: J. McGrath
ROLL CALL VOTE: S. Allen, aye; M. Baker, aye; S. Gertz, aye; K. Jermyn, SCPO, aye; Jane McGrath, aye. None opposed.
MOTION CARRIES: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
 Recording Secretary