

February 9, 2021 Commission on Disabilities Meeting Notes

Remote meeting via Zoom: Dial-in number: 929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 873 3170 0970 Passcode: 311658
Website: <https://zoom.us/join>

Attendees:

Diane DeNapoli (chair), Stephanie Gertz, SCPO Keith Jermyn, USN Maria O'Laughlin, Megan Baker

- Call to Order

Diane DeNapoli called the meeting to order at 7:05 then she read the open meeting law

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, **§ 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.**

- Public Comments: No public comments
- Review meeting notes from 2/21/20
Stephanie motioned to accept the minutes, Maria seconded, unanimously approved
- What's the news? A brief summary of activities related to the COD that occurred since our last COD meeting:

The COD now has a page on the Hingham town website.

The group has been advised to use the town Facebook to make the town familiar with the COD, and then based on reception and if it is mutually agreeable, the COD would make its own Facebook site.

Increasing accessibility online

- The group began discussion of how to make the COD web page more accessible to the audio and visually challenged.
- There was discussion of whether the group is eligible to fundraise and apply for grants to make the COD site more accessible and what the best strategy for receiving grants may be.
- The discussion moved towards what vendors may be able to provide this service.
- The group talked about the CapTel phone system and 711 and its provider Mass Relay, which are services for the hearing impaired that come free of cost to the user. There was talk of putting a link to those services as well as other helpful links on the COD webpage.

- Maria brought up the Etrusco program in Scituate, which is a swap program that takes in unused medical and nursing equipment and distributes it to those who need it, free of cost.
- Diane then raised the idea of everyone in the group bringing forth three links that they would like to have on the COD website for the next meeting, which the group could then brainstorm with and then add them to the site.
- Diane brought up that the date of the next meeting falls over school vacation, so it was decided that 30th of April would be the next meeting date.
- The group raised the issue of using personal emails for COD business. It was decided that it may be a good idea to make COD specific emails but further discussion of the topic was pushed to a later date.

ADA Compliance Bathroom in Bare Cove Park

- Keith discussed attending the Selectmen's Meeting and finding that the plans for the Bare Cove Park project had no ADA compliance and the builder said it would be possible to make the bathroom ADA compliant, but was not aware that it was supposed to be so. Keith told the Selectmen's meeting that it needed to be ADA compliant.
- Keith shared with the group that he thought that based on the exorbitant cost of the project that it likely will not go anywhere.

Annual Town Report Draft

- Diane said that Stephanie will be working on the Annual Report and that there is no set date for the town meeting.
- Stephanie said that she is indeed working on the draft.

Update on COD Survey (timing, review questions, how to receive feedback, what will be done with the result)

- Diane discussed keeping the survey to 10-15 questions in order to keep people engaged and receive accurate information.
- The group discussed the time frame that will be given for people to complete the survey.
- Megan raised the idea of having it be an ongoing questionnaire as opposed to a survey with a time window.
- Diane countered with the idea of doing both a survey with a time frame and posting a questionnaire on the COD web page that will be ongoing.
- There was a discussion of whether or not to have the survey online via survey monkey or on paper. It was decided that both will be used.
- It was decided that having as many venues as possible for the paper survey will be the best route, for example having a drop box at the town meeting itself and also allowing for it to be submitted via the mail.

- Diane stated that the group should try to have the survey questions completed by the 15th

Not On Agenda: Service Dog at Hingham High

- The group discussed a topic that was raised at the School Board meeting which was a plan for getting an emotional support dog at Hingham High.
- The group talked about how the semantics of the presentation of the plan caused a lack of support for the emotional support dog.
- It was decided that the topic of how the dog could be of use to Hingham's disabled will be discussed further at a later date, possibly in the summer.

Maria made a motion to adjourn, which Stephanie seconded.

Before the meeting was adjourned Diane shared a quote in honor of St. Patrick's Day, which was "A companion shortens the road".

- Next meeting date April 30
- Adjourned at 8:50