

Commission on Disabilities (CoD) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Remote Meeting via Zoom

In attendance:

Diane DeNapoli, Chair
Stephanie Gertz, Vice Chair
Megan Baker, Secretary
Maria O'Laughlin
Sharon Allen, Member-at-Large
SCPO Keith Jermyn
Mike Clancy

Absent: None

Call to Order

At 7:05 p.m., Chair DeNapoli called the meeting to order.

At 7:05 p.m, Chair DeNapoli read the following **Open Meeting Law** statement that has been slightly modified:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternative means of public access pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting will be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with 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.”

The Town of Hingham is recording the meeting.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Review Meeting Notes from July 13, 2021

Meeting Notes process:

Chair DeNapoli said the Town of Hingham will transcribe Meeting Minutes going forward.
Chair DeNapoli thanked Secretary, Megan Baker, for her service in transcribing past meeting minutes.

Does anyone have Modifications to the Meeting Notes? There were no responses.

Chair DeNapoli addressed Secretary, Megan Baker. Going forward the Town would like us to add modification language to the Open Meeting Law to each Agenda and the Meeting Minutes.

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Chair DeNapoli asked if someone would like to make a motion to accept the Meeting Notes of 7-13-21. Sharon Allen motioned to accept the modifications to the July 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Maria O'Laughlin seconded the motion.

Opening Thought: I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

Chair DeNapoli said sometimes it can be a struggle if you feel like you're not getting stuff done, but we can change the way we position ourselves to get it done.

Welcome New Members

Chair DeNapoli introduced two new Team members: Sharon Allen and Mike Clancy.

Sharon Allen has parents who live here in Town so she is interested in the disabled, elderly population. She also has a disabled son who is 27 who has been through different school systems, also through the Riverview School. He is currently employed full time at a local dairy farm. She works with differently abled children in the Hingham Public Schools.

Mike Clancy is the Building Commissioner for the Town of Hingham. He is also the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Architectural Access Board Enforcement Officer. He does not live in Hingham. He lives in Kingston.

The Vision (Chair DeNapoli to present 21/ 22 Kick Off Presentation)

The purpose of the Commission is to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Hingham.

Promote full integration of persons with disabilities

Provide information if people call or email

Participate in a variety of forums and media events to develop public awareness of persons with disabilities and encourage compliance with the ADA

Coordinate or Carry Out. Coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the MA office on disability.

Commission Update. In April we presented to the Select Board some of our commissions to date.

	Where are we with goals discussed with BOS?
Zoom / Live Transcription continues	Each Chair will choose to meet in person or on Zoom. Harbor Media is doing a trial with LT
ADU Study Committee pending approval at Town Meeting	Chair DeNapoli on ADU Study Committee Vice-Chair Gertz runs HUC (Oct 20, 7pm Zoom)
Hingham Unity Council Presentation in October	Sharon Allen, Mike Clancy have been sworn into the CoD
	November - DAV Road Race Nov 6, 10 am
Add members to the Board to better represent the community	Dyslexia Chat / Co-host with SEPAC? mid-October Survey complete
Create funding strategy	LOGO Contest Funding

Zoom might be best for individuals with disabilities.

ADA Study Committee was approved. Chair DeNapoli will sit on that meeting.

Hingham Unity Council presentation on October 20. Ms. Gertz will Facilitate and Moderate.

Add members to the Board to better represent the community. We've added Ms. Allen and Mr. Clancy.

Create funding strategy. We've been able to participate in 4th of July and the town approved funding.

If we want to do something different for funding, how do we partner with an organization to achieve that?

Goals and Next Steps

Possible Working Groups

Existing	Proposed
Administration / Outreach	Infrastructure / Access
ADU	Communication (web site / Senior Ctr / LP)
Special Events / Annual Events	Community Programming

Looking at our goals, information from the survey, and our own interests and talents, Ms. Gertz and I put together some possible working groups for how we could break down this work.

Each person would have their own scope of responsibility.

Some possible working groups that we put together might be **Administration / Outreach** which would probably be the Chair and Vice-Chair putting together a write-up for the Town Meeting or to speak to the Select Board.

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Special Events / Annual Events - HUC or the Chat on Dyslexia might be different every year, but something more annual like the 4th of July, how would we make that more accessible to individuals in Hingham? PR, Stephanie and I can look at for October events.

Some proposed groups that go beyond what we've done thus far would be a working group on **Infrastructure and Access**. That can be anything from physical access, parking, roads or helping a store understand curbside pickup has a lot of potential.

Communication would be the website.

Communication / Senior Center / LP. If we have an event, do we know the right people to send the flyer to? Outreach.

Community Programming. Keep our ears to the ground. Do we hear of something another is working on from which individuals could benefit?

Chair DeNapoli wants people to feel if you're on this group, what do you think are the priorities?

What is something you have noticed that you can work on?

I want people to feel the working group is their own. I can do this in my own way.

Next Steps

Determine who will be on the study groups

Promote upcoming events

Enhance the website

Finalize by-laws, the Chair

ADU Study Group

Other Suggestions

Moving into our second year, now that we're fully staffed, we can use the monthly meetings to empower people to take on some different roles. Chair and Vice-Chair will always be here to help.

Chair DeNapoli asked if anyone had any questions. What do you think of the Working Groups?

Mr. Clancy inquired how does CoD receive complaints? In the Building Dept., we go out to investigate complaints. If you get complaints, send me an email. I could check those out and have a strategy to fix it before the next meeting. Chair DeNapoli said inquires go through Michelle the ADA Coordinator.

By the end of the week, if members could touch base with me to indicate any interest in a role.

Matters not anticipated within 24 hours of meeting.

Ms. O'Laughlin had a meeting with Jennifer Young of the Senior Center. They'd like to have someone from our group come talk to the seniors, maybe hybrid. I'd be happy to do that. They'd like to know what our group has to offer.

The Senior Center Director came from Plymouth where there was a vibrant, flourishing Senior Center.

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She doesn't know how you reach out to people who are not yet using the Senior Center. During COVID-19 classes were at no cost. Now that classes are in-person, there is a cost.

Ms. Young bought a small system for hearing and vision screen. She has a grant that supports low hearing. She's looking to get some iPads. People don't have access. She feels they need a full-time grant writer. They need a media manager, an assistant to the manager, a photographer. Communication with her constituents was a harking theme. She wants to be introduced to our group.

She said 600-800 persons access the Senior Center out of 5600 seniors. She said there is a clear distinction that Linden Pond seniors would not go to the Senior Center. Why? She thinks there are a lot of people who live independently in Hingham. There isn't much senior housing. Where are the seniors?

HUC, Hingham Unity Council, October 20 A Day in the Life of

Ms. Gertz will be the Facilitator, possibly the Moderator on the panel. She said this is not just for individuals with disabilities, but what your neighbors are through. The talk was very successful in Scituate. Lizzie is creating a flyer. Ms. Gertz will ask everyone on CoD to get the flyer out to your groups.

Ms. Baker asked whether the chat feature will be available via Zoom.

Ms. Gertz said the questions will be "free wheeling Q and A". Feel free to ask questions, but we will choose what we will answer.

Chair DeNapoli has attended a couple of these with other populations. The questions go to the moderator. The moderator hands out the question.

Dates on the Calendar for the next 3 meetings: October 12, November 9, December 14.

Member Terms of Service. How do the terms work? Chair DeNapoli will check that out. Ms. Allen is a Member-at-Large. Ms. Gertz said terms are staggered because members all started at the same time. Some have terms of 1 year, 2 or 3 years.

Chair Napoli asked whether there any comments or questions at this time? None.

Motion to Adjourn

Keith Jermyn motioned to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Vice-Chair Gertz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Vote to Adjourn the Meeting: Chair DeNapoli-yes, Vice-Chair Gertz-yes, Secretary Baker-yes, Ms. O'Laughlin-yes, Member-at-Large Allen-yes, SCPO Jermyn-yes, Mr. Clancy-yes

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Michaud
Independent Contractor