



TOWN OF WINTHROP

NAME OF PUBLIC BODY:

TOWN OF WINTHROP
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

DATE AND TIME OF
LOCATION

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 @
6:21PM

LOCATION OF MEETING:

ROBERT DeLEO SENIOR
CENTER

Minutes of meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 by Chairperson Linda McGeorge. Present for this meeting were the following members: Jon Rodis, Gerry DiFranza, Patricia Tacelli, Susan Rowe, and Winthrop residents Andrew Carr, John Morgan and Cathy Stacey. Also in attendance were Elizabeth Zaleski from the Town of Winthrop Finance Department and Councilor-At-Large Michael Lucerto. Absent from the meeting were Kathleen Kane and Michael Sullivan.

The Chairperson first discussed the matter of not being made aware of those who were going to be in attendance at this evening's meeting. Ms McGeorge made known that she prefers to have this information so that the agenda disseminated to the members may be closely adhered to. She then apologized to the commission for the chastisement, and members, in round table fashion, proceeded to introduce themselves.

The chair then proceeded to inform those new to the commission that the better part of a year has been spent on a very important issue called "safety or safe passage" for the disabled citizens and for all citizens within the Town of Winthrop. Other concerns that were proposed by the members of the commission included transportation and housing.

Having decided at a previous commission meeting to focus on "safe passage" throughout the town, discussion followed on which specific examples of concern needed to be addressed; e.g., crosswalks, curb cuts which end up in a sewer, new signage, coverings for splayed cables extending from utility poles, etc.

Councilor Lucerto then asked that we look at the town's budget and ways to pay for these programs. He advised that Elizabeth Zaleski of the town's Finance Department might offer some information on our commission's sources of revenue. Ms Zaleski made known that our primary revenue source comes from ticketing Handicapped Parking violators. Monies accruing from those fines are then deposited into a special account called H.P. Fines. How can this money be spent? Anything that directly benefits the handicapped residents of the Town of Winthrop; e.g., signage, enclosures for splayed cables from utility poles, etc. Additionally, strict procedures must be followed when requesting payment for goods and/or services. All vendors, including commission members seeking reimbursement, must fill out a W9 Form and a Voucher Form (the original invoice attached) and submit to the Finance Office, Attn: Jill Dorr.

Other sources of revenue were then discussed, including the grants from the Massachusetts Office on Disability and Public Safety Grants.

The councilman then asked if any commission member had noticed a facilities/building problem, such as the Larsen Skating Rink. The chair responded that there was a question of accessibility to the library from the lower parking area.

Discussion followed with Mr. Lucerto's profound questions: What does the Commission on Disabilities do? How do we get visibility within the community? Several responses included: An infomercial on WCAT, the Greater Boston Abilities Expo in September, and the local resource fair scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2018.

The commission members then expressed their collective gratitude to Ms Zaleski for taking the time to inform us about the procedures for financing our projects.

Roundtable discussion then followed, with the chair asking if any non-member in attendance would be interested in joining our group. One person responded that, probably not because she found the meeting stressful and therefore unhealthy to her particular disability. The chair then attempted to assuage this person's perceptions of the meeting, noting that it was atypical.

Birthday wishes and thanks were then conveyed to Mr. Lucerto.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rowe
Recording Secretary