



Winthrop Commission of Disabilities Minutes

August 29, 2019 6:30 pm

DeLeo Senior Center

MINUTES

In attendance: Linda McGeorge, Andrew Carr, Susan Smith, Jon Rodis

Commission member candidate: Karla Murphy

Absent: Gerald DiFranza, Kathleen Kane

- A. Meeting was called to order by at 6:30 pm.
- B. Minutes from the meeting of June 27, 2019 were approved as submitted
- C. Owner of 290 River Road, Winthrop, MA 02152 came to commission to discuss application for a handicap parking spot. Application was denied due to home has driveway available, and per regulations, handicap parking space will not be given. Owner can appeal to RMV for reconsideration.
- D. J. Rodis reported attending the Boston Disability Commission via phone in order to report back to WCD, but was unable to hear the conversation due to technical difficulties on the other end. S. Smith has connections with the BDC and will follow-up to report difficulty. NOTE: next BDC meeting is September 18 @ 5:30 pm.
- E. Commission welcomed K. Murphy as a candidate to join the commission. She will be submitting a formal application for placement.
- F. L. McGeorge reported 2 volunteers from the Senior Tax Project have completed the review of handicap parking spaces in the town of Winthrop. Current legislation requires verification of signs must be done every 2 years. It was also noted that town residents should report to the town if they move away. The handicap parking space does not automatically transfer with the property to the new owner.
- G. L. McGeorge reported letters were being sent to several people for violation of municipal handicap parking space violations. Those receiving letters have the right to appeal to the RMV.
- H. Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) has grant opportunities available. The commission discussed appropriate projects to submit applications for. These included: purchase of a beach wheelchair, accessibility for the tennis courts by the high school, audio traffic signs (S Smith noted checking with the police department for records on intersections where the most accidents have occurred before determining placement). Note: grant deadline is October 1, 2019. *Action item: S. Smith will do some research on grant requirements and email commission members so this project can be worked on collectively.*

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- I. A. Carr has volunteered to attend Planning Board meetings to keep commission informed of projects in Winthrop that the commission can offer accessibility support to. *Action item: A. Carr will need business cards ordered.*
- J. Upcoming events:
 - a. Boston Abilities Expo September 13-15, 2019 The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Hall A, Boston Fri. 11am-5pm | Sat. 11am-5pm | Sun 11am-4pm
 - b. Massachusetts Office on Disability Summit September 27, 2019 Boston Convention & Exhibition Center 415 Summer Street, Boston 8am – 12pm
 - c. October is White Cane Month
- K. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm
- L. Next meeting: **Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 6:30 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Smith, Secretary
Winthrop Disability Commission

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