



TOWN OF WINTHROP

NAME OF PUBLIC BODY:

TOWN OF WINTHROP
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

DATE AND TIME:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31,
2017 @6:30pm

LOCATION OF MEETING:

ROBERT DeLEO SENIOR
CENTER

Minutes of meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by Chairperson Linda McGeorge. Present for this meeting were the following members: Jon Rodis, Gerry DiFranza, Patricia Tacelli, Susan Rowe, and Winthrop

Andrew Carr. Absent from the meeting were Kathleen Kane and Michael Sullivan.

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes from the June 8, 2017 and the July 20, 2017 meetings. Once corrected, the motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A round table presentation was used to share information with members of the Commission pertaining disability issues:

Andrew Carr:

- was thrilled to tell us about a job offer he just received from the Commonwealth's Children & Family Services, Boston Legal Unit

- was in touch with WCAT about paratransit vehicles for those in wheelchairs and about captioning as a tool for the disabled to know what is going on in the community by using words which can be read at the bottom of the screen.

- involved in researching ways, including cost, of procuring such a device.

- also involved with fundraising.

Gerry DiFranza:

- being the Commission's expert on matters pertaining to vision and hearing, particularly by keeping abreast of legislation being enacted, Gerry reported that a significant chasm exists between the heads of the Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Commission of the Blind.

- Joint Committee on Financial Services hearings have been deferred to February, 2018.

—emphasized the importance of children being screened for both hearing and vision and the role that the child's pediatrician plays in detecting a problem.

—of course, the initial observer of a hearing/vision problem is the parent who hopefully would act on his/her observation and follow through with professional resources.

—as it now stands, children with hearing problems are now able to get hearing aids through insurance

—action in the form of a bill, is being presented by Sen. Boncore on behalf of adults over age 22

Patricia:

—always an activist, Patricia notified police about a dangerous situation on Jefferson St. where excavation is taking place and a steep drop is very close to the interior part of the sidewalk. Orange mesh material has been run along the entrance to the property, however, questions and concerns still exist about this drop, which may actually no longer be a problem.

—a problem continues with respect to the crosswalk that exists at Washington Ave. and Pleasant St. at Winthrop Street.

—Winthrop Marketplace has painted stripes in fluorescent yellow on a drain pipe that some have trouble seeing.

Jon Rodis:

—where to begin: conferences, research and events!

—hopes to see the head of the RMV about abuse of HP placards

—planning on meeting with governor about opioid crisis and medical marijuana

—scheduling a meeting with state legislators who deal with rare disorders

—important study is underway in finding out how the gastrointestinal tract and its contents and the interactions of those contents have on the development of endometriosis and gastroparesis

—Children's Hospital is investigating to learn of a genetic code and/or biomarker for joint hypermobility.

—another studies are ongoing in the areas EDS, tryptase, and PARS

—Research continues in the area of STEM CELLS, wherein hope reigns for repair of many conditions.

The Chair then reminded the group that an invitation had been sent by MOD to the 2017 Summit, TOPIC: Employment Opportunity. She also reminded us of our fellow commissioner ^{member} Michael who is undergoing additional treatments and is looking forward to the time he will be returning.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:35pm. Unanimous approval was given.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rowe
Recording Secretary