



Winthrop Commission of Disabilities Minutes

October 31, 2019 6:15 pm

DeLeo Senior Center

MINUTES

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

Absent: Kathleen Kane

- A. Meeting was called to order by at 6:20 pm.
- B. Minutes from the meeting of August 27, 2019 were approved as submitted
- C. L. McGeorge reported no additional word from Gerry and he will be used as a resource for the commission. We need recruitment for additional commission members. Can have a maximum of 9. Posts in the Transcript, weekly town newsletter and senior newsletter were options discussed.
- D. Discussion on community grant opportunity and what the response schedule would be. \$150,000 - \$200,000 was thought to be available to community groups. There seems to be confusion around who is Winthrop's grant writer and what is the process to get on the calendar for grant opportunities. K. Murphy will work on this issue and report back.
- E. Commission agreed to postpone plans to be on WCAT until a full plan can be developed on topics, etc. S. Smith will compile a master list of topics. Matt Rhodes will meet with the commission again when we are ready to proceed.
- F. L. McGeorge will invite town manager Austin Faison to speak with the commission.
- G. Discussion on adding a disability resource section to the commissions page on the towns website so residents could have quick access to important information. Commission will develop a menu of items that could be included. J. Rodis will review information on other towns commissions websites and report back. Question was raised about accessibility of Winthrop's website. This needs to also be confirmed.
- H. Concerns about public transportation in Winthrop. S. Smith mentioned the Boston Center for Independent Living will be hosting its annual meeting (it is an open meeting) on Thursday, November 21 from 6-8 pm at the State Transportation Building (10 Park Plaza, Boston) and the keynote speaker is Steve Poftak, MBTA general manager and they might be a good place to learn more about what the MBTA is doing and the impacts on people with disabilities.
- I. L. McGeorge will be in contact with the medical reserve corps to coordinate a presentation for emergency planning for those with disabilities. L. McGeorge will bring a "go-bag" to the next meeting.

- J. Discussion around identifying those in Winthrop who have disabilities that would need assistance in case of emergency. There is an existing list but it should be updated. It was noted that people can self-identify as a person with a disability on the town's yearly census. There is also a form on the town's website but needs to be updated. It was suggested that the commission also receive a copy of the list.
- K. Due to upcoming holidays, the commission will meet on an adjusted schedule. We will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:15 pm and Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 6:15 pm. Meetings will be held at the Senior Center.
- L. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm
- M. Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:15 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Smith, Secretary
Winthrop Commission of Disabilities