



Winthrop Commission of Disabilities Minutes

November 12, 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 at 6:25 pm.
- B. Minutes from the meeting of October 31, 2019 were approved as submitted
- C. L. McGeorge showed the commission a copy of the disability assistance letter that is distributed through the local census. The assistance letter is for those with disabilities who want to self-identify, and they will be put on the list to be the first attended to in case of a town wide emergency (hurricanes, flood, power outages, etc.). The letter is also available to residents on the town's website. Commission wondered if an announcement could also be put in the Transcript to direct residents to the town's website.
- D. L. McGeorge suggested the commission could visit other towns commissions to see how others function. Revere, Lynn, Cambridge, Beverly and City of Boston were mentioned. Many on the commission seemed to have connections to some of these. Action item: those with connections reach out and contact other commissions to inquire about attending to observe. Report back at next meeting.
- E. Commission is still seeking clarification on the town's grant writing process and if there is a designated grant writer. Action item: K. Murphy will contact David Rodrigues.
- F. MOD (Massachusetts Office on Disability) annual report is available.
 - a. https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/06/04/FY18%20Annual%20Report%20for%20the%20MOD%20Municipal%20ADA%20Improvement%20Grant%20Program.pdf?_ga=2.229737436.1523005173.1576547053-1562887639.1576547053
 - b. L. McGeorge will invite MOD director Jeffrey Dugan to a commission meeting in 2020
 - c. MOD grant funds discussion. Commission would like to explore funding to support an accessible beach wheelchair and accessibility work on the tennis courts. S. Smith will bring template from the last MOD grant round to next meeting for discussion.
 - d. The commission would like to coordinate with the MOD to host an emergency preparedness workshop in 2020.
- G. L. McGeorge will invite Austin Faison to a commission meeting in 2020. Commission will prepare a list of topics to discuss with him. Items noted at this meeting:
 - a. Clarification on the grant writing process
 - b. Accessibility/compliance officer for Winthrop
 - c. Accessibility friendly town goals

- H. Commission would like to see a disability resource page added to the town website.
 - a. Who is the town webmaster?
 - b. S. Smith offered to share the Boston Center for Independent Living's resource page as a sample <https://bostoncil.org/online-resources/>
- I. S. Smith noted there is a state-wide shortage of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. Seeking referrals of certified interpreters.
- J. Due to upcoming holidays, the commission will not meet in December. Meetings will resume in January 2020. Commission members are consulting schedules and will coordinate 2 dates to meet in January. Meetings will be held at the Senior Center.
- K. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm
- L. Next meeting: To be determined

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Smith, Secretary
Winthrop Commission of Disabilities