

## Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 02/16/2022, 5:00 pm.

**Present:** Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, **Guest:** Lisa Wong, Viv Price Marie Rohan and Rick Dunderdale.

Johnstone called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

Johnstone had the members introduce themselves to Town Administrator Lisa Wong , and then Lisa let the group know her back round.

Lisa reviewed her Capital plan process stating she was looking for our input. Johnstone explained that our highest priority was access to Town hall and had Larry explain how he thought that a ramp could be added for first floor access. Larry stated that he felt it would be possible to add a ramp leading to the door to the courtyard, accessing the Hall between the Clerks office and the Administration office. Johnstone stated that the ramp would also provide an exit for wheelchairs in the event of a fire.

Johnstone asked Viv to talk about the possibility of using HARPA funds to help provide access for people with disabilities to access meeting and the town website. Larry mentioned that there is a process to apply parking fines to be used by the commission on disabilities for the purpose of aiding access to public facilities and increasing public awareness. Johnstone stated that the monies would come from Handicap parking fines. Lisa stated that under Section 22G it covered collection of Handicap parking fines. Johnstone said we might also be able to get a grant using the Munciple Americans with Disabilities Act Grant, and that Jeff Dugan might be able to help with that process. Johnstone to contact Jeff.

Johnstone let Lisa know that the Commission on Disabilities plans on continuing hybrid meetings as allowed by the state. He mentioned that we felt all meetings should continue with a hybrid component to allow seniors and handicapped individuals to attend. Lisa said she was looking at making hybrid meeting possible. There was further discussion about increasing access.

Lisa asked for ARPA requests that we might be aware of be sent to Viv. She said she had added the handicap ramp to the request. Members should send any ideas to Viv as soon as possible.

Johnstone gave an update on our survey and he informed us that several people were interested in getting copies of the survey. Since we don't have a paper copy of the survey, it was determined we should get one together. Johnstone commented that on the E-Survey there was no way for people to contact us if they wanted to follow up. Larry said that would have to be added by the survey originator. Johnstone was to follow up with Kristen to see how that information could be added.

Corrections were made to the minutes to clarify funding for the MOD requirements, and Larry motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Johnstone seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

There was discussion about the ARPA request by the library. Tay brought up that the cost will have gone up. Viv will look at the request and insure that the pricing will reflect current costs.

Larry asked for some clarification on the survey as to Tay's contact and how the paper copies will be returned. Johnstone is looking into further ways to distribute.

There was discussion on getting poles moved out of the sidewalks. Tay stated that the poles impede travel and need to be a priority. Larry and Viv went over some of the issues with getting poles moved.

Marie Rohan asked if we had contacted Sandy Diamond who is head of rehab at the VA Leeds. We had not. She also asked about the community garden which is not on the list.

Next meeting is scheduled for 03/16/2022 at 5pm.

Larry motioned to adjourn at 6:31 pm Tay seconded and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)