

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 03/15/2023, 5:00 pm.

Present: Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, and Rick Dunderdale. Guest Ben Ayers, and Elizabeth Cooke

Tay called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Larry motioned to accept the minutes of Oct. 19 2022, Dec. 14 2022 and Feb. 15 of 2023. Rick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ben Ayers said he was interested in what the group might want to add to it's task list. The group discussed how hard it is to cover the tasks as a commission of only 5 individuals, and have constantly had numbers down due to health issues. Tay and Larry told Ben which groups COD has been successful in interfacing with. Larry said that the Chief of Police was aware of the problem cars are not stopping for the crosswalks on 202. Tay brought up that it would easier for people to contact us if there was a mailing address for the commission at Town Hall. Tay also suggested that there be training for committees on how to function better. Larry said that closed captioning does not show up when enabled. Ben thanked the commission and left at 5:30

Tay started going over the changes to virtual meeting, Then the group talked about re-accepting the bylaw for COD's allowing only 1 person to be present at a physical location and the rest of the committee being remote.

Tay made a motion to adopt Mass general law Part1 Title 3 Chapter 38 Section 20E allowing COD's to have remote meetings not subject to a Quorum. Larry Seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Tay brought up supporting the change to allow ADUs. There was some discussion on why ADUs were an economical way for Disabled people to have an accessible residence without losing their home. Larry motioned that the commission send a letter in support of ADUs, Rick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tay stated that there is language stating that individuals requesting accommodations will be honored. There is a question on how to access the accommodations.

There was some discussion on the bike walk committee attempting to increase biking and walking safety.

Larry motioned that Tay have permission to represent the COD in supporting remote meetings in the future. Rick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is TBD

Larry motioned to adjourn at 6:19 pm Rick seconded and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)