

## Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 05/17/2023, 5:00 pm.

**Present:** Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, and Rick Dunderdale. Guest Johnstone Campbell

Tay called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Larry motioned to accept the minutes as amended 04/26/2023. Rick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tay told the group that the state COD will have 2 virtual meetings. Sign up is required to attend. Tay and Rick will attempt to attend.

Larry updated the group that the town had approved funding for the BATTERY BROOK PARK PARC grant. Town meeting also approved the ADU bylaw change.

Tay talked a little about TV15 adding closed captioning, and getting closed captioning on zoom. Larry brought up that some state grants require ASL be available. Unfortunately there is little direction on how they can make ASL available. Johnstone said that making ASL available is timely and costly.

Johnstone talked to the group about evacuation chairs. There was a discussion on the need for a safe way to evacuate a handicapped individual in an emergency.

Tay talked about how to reach out to the other groups that we should be working with on master plan issues. Tay will draft a letter to the other groups.

Tay talked about a request to support a bill presented By Senator Comerford currently being considered by the Massachusetts legislature that would increase access on trails (S.446 H.769). Johnstone will look at creating a draft letter of support.

Tay suggested we look at getting business cards to contact the commission.

Larry brought up that home owners have complained that emergency vehicles go up their road only to find out it's a dead end and they have to go way back and around. Maybe we can talk about this when we meet with Fire and police. Tay volunteered to assist with safety drills to look for problems faced by individuals with disabilities.

Next meeting is TBD

Larry motioned to adjourn at 6:11 pm Rick seconded and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)