

## **Concord Commission on Disability Meeting**

Minutes

February 21, 2019

Present: Jean Goldsberry, Chair, Marybeth Barker, Tom McKean, Nora McShane, Meryl Schwartz (by telephone), and Karen Young

Minutes from the January 10 meeting were approved and accepted.

Membership: Nora asked to resign due to other commitments. She was warmly thanked for her contributions to the Commission for the past three years. Jean will approach another member of the Minuteman Arc community to join.

The Commission is still in need of two additional members. Jennifer sent a message to the Concord SPEDPAC mailing list soliciting potential members. Jean will check at the Town House to ask if any green cards have been submitted. Other suggestions for recruiting members included reaching out to the Council on Aging, West Concord Union Church, and other communities of faith.

55 Church St. update: Jean met with Ryan at the building to discuss options for providing safe access. One solution was to add a mesh screen extension which Jean agreed looked acceptable. Ryan was going to take measurements and follow up. As of this week nothing has changed but the proposed solution is progress.

Lockboxes for Concord citizens: Information has been prepared and next steps are to publicize widely. Jean offered to draft the announcement and will send it to the Commission for comments. Suggestions for where to publicize included rehabilitation facilities and the Concord Police Department, which maintains a list of residents with disabilities for emergency situations.

Adaptive Bike Share program: Lesley Johnson provided the name of the Facebook group in which she participates—**Recumbent Trikes Group**, a great way to learn about recumbent trikes. Once the Bike Share program

has an action plan the Commission has offered to contribute by purchasing 1 or 2 bikes as we have money in our budget. The cost per bike is approximately \$1,500. Marybeth will reconnect with Lesley and report back to the group. It is possible that the bikes will be made available through a partnership with Pedal Power in Acton.

New Business accessibility: Jean visited Café Nero and reported that there is adequate access into the building. She also tried to visit Graem Nuts and Chocolate but the shop is closed on Mondays. She did go to the accessible, rear entrance and saw a baker's rack near that entrance, but thinks this may be placed there when the shop is closed. Another visit will be necessary to ensure compliance.

ASL interpreter for Human Rights program: Marybeth reported that she met with the co-chairs of the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council, Rob Morrison and Louisa Paushter, to discuss their request for an ASL interpreter at the Holocaust Memorial Observance. There seems to be some reluctance within the Council membership to ask the town to pay for the services of the legally required two interpreters and instead suggested that volunteers be solicited. The event is held in the Town House, which gives it the status of a town-sponsored event, while other events sponsored by the Council are held in other venues. An event is considered a town event if the town provides the budget and the space, as is the case for the Holocaust Observance. However, ASL interpreters are required by law, so asking for the costs to be covered is not extraordinary. Tom offered to speak directly with Chris Whelan to ask if there is an easy solution, i.e., will the town simply offer to pay the approximately \$300 cost of the interpreters. If there is pushback it was agreed that the Commission will send a letter to the town officials.

New/Miscellaneous: At a recent committee chairs brunch Jean was approached by the husband of the owner of the Art Gym, located above Nashoba Brook Bakery. There is an elevator to the second floor but there are three stairs to access the space and no ramp. A portable ramp is one possible solution. Jean noted that routinely checking out new businesses before they open and assist with reviewing possible accessibility issues could be extremely beneficial by helping prevent them from losing customers right from the start.

Jean noted that the Library received a grant to purchase large print and easy reading books. The Library has partnered with Minuteman Arc to form the Next Chapter Book Club that will be able to use these books during their weekly meetings at the Fowler Branch.

Marybeth asked about the possibility of reassigning the role of ADA Coordinator, currently under the Deputy Town Manager, to someone who has fewer responsibilities. Tom agreed that this is an excellent suggestion and will make sure that it is presented to the new Town Manager, who is expected to begin in mid-May. He also suggested that the Manager be invited to a future meeting to discuss the ADA Coordinator role.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 14. Marybeth will invite Louisa Paushter to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Young