

## **Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Weinreich, Michelle O'Connor, Andrew Freeman, Darren MacDonald, Angela Sestito

**Board Members Absent:** Anthony Nunes

**Others Present:** Brandon Gulnick (ADA Coordinator), Dan Robinson (Appointee to the Board), Stephen Curley (Board of Selectmen Candidate)

Acting Chairman Thomas Weinreich opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with a meet and greet of all members. There is a discussion about Board reorganization. Mr. Weinreich is appointed and voted as the Chairman of the Board; Mr. MacDonald is appointed and voted as the Clerk; Ms. O'Connor is appointed and voted as the Assistant to the Chairman. It is decided that a Vice Chairman will be appointed and voted at the next meeting.

### **7:30 P.M.**

The Board attends the Selectmen's meeting in the Veteran's Hall while Mr. Robinson is appointed to the Commission. All members return to the conference room at 7:35 pm.

### **7:40 P.M.**

Discussions begin about an internship program to help the Commission organize and reach the goals that will be set. Mr. MacDonald states that Bridgewater State University may be an option for recruiting an intern. The Board also converses about making the internship opportunity a remote position as many students may work full time and may not be able to commit to an in-office internship. The Board tables this discussion for an upcoming meeting.

### **7:50 P.M.**

Discussion about the five year plan for the Commission on Disabilities. Mr. Gulnick gave each member worksheets for four of the twelve town owned parks & buildings that need to be brought into ADA compliance as surveyed by Weston and Sampson. Mr. Robinson began the discussion about Town Hall being the building of highest priority as it is used the most by the public. Mr. Weinreich points out that door knobs and bathrooms in Town Hall are so out of ADA compliance that a handicapped individual cannot currently use either one. Each member is asked to complete the worksheets to help the Board in the prioritization process.

### **8:00 P.M.**

Mr. Gulnick introduces the topic of funding/funding types such as grants, etc. The Board is asked to keep funding in mind and brainstorm different funding avenues that may want to be explored.

### **8:10 P.M.**

Mr. Weinreich moves the meeting onto the topic of nonprofit organizations. Mr. Gulnick points out that partnering with nonprofit organizations may be a good way to get projects started. Mr. Freeman states that in his profession, he has a lot of contact with nonprofits and would be happy to help in any way with this aspect.

**8:20 P.M.**

The topic of fundraising and community awareness was next on the meeting agenda for discussion. Mr. Weinreich suggests possibly getting the community involved in bringing parks and buildings into ADA compliance as a form of awareness. There was also discussion about creating a gift fund. The Board will revisit both topics in future meetings.

**8:30 P.M.**

The next item on the agenda, Community Surveying, garners a lengthy discussion. The Board recognizes that community input on each project that the Commission is involved with is extremely important. There is also discussion on getting updated statistics on Pembroke's disabled population through a possible town wide survey.

**8:50 P.M.**

The topic of a newsletter is the last item on tonight's agenda. Mr. Gulnick states that a newsletter similar to what the Council on Aging publishes would be a great way to bring awareness to the Commission on Disabilities as well as encourage the community's participation in various aspects of the Commission. Ms. Sestito points out that using the newsletter to publicize some type of gift fund may be beneficial. There is a discussion about self-funding the newsletter.

**9:00 P.M.**

Mr. Weinreich adjourns the meeting.