Draft Minutes for Disability Commission Meeting

August 20, 2015

Swampscott Town Hall 1st floor conference room

In attendance:

Trisha Malphrus

Linda Fistel

Jim Pitts

Jim Badger

Sam Paster

Laura Spathanas

Meeting called to order at 7 PM

voted on decision to have co-vice chairs

Voted on Chairperson Trisha Malphrus

Voted on Co-Vice chairs Linda Fistel and Jim Badger

spoke about having a secretary but no one wanted it, so we will all take turns with notes

Voted on the minutes from last meeting

We did some house keeping and spoke about emails and being cautious to not violate open meeting laws with discussions thru email. We spoke about the importance of commitment to the commission and showing up to meetings. It was discussed that other committees lose out on a room, when we book and cancel. We discussed what we needed for members and quorums. Also, we talked about who we have for members and that we do still meet the required numbers to meet.

The requirements are 5-9 persons, the majority being disabled, with a care giver and a community member.

We spoke about needing a plan for moving forward with the commission. We need a wish list, starting with the most imperative. Trish Malphrus spoke about a sheet she was given, which we will work on for our next meeting, listing all committees and commissions purposes and then asking how we can help and inter weave.

The commission voted and we had to cancel out of the farmer's Market for Sunday, do personal commitment issues.

Jim Badger spoke about the amazing accomplishments this month with the crosswalks and the great publicity it is getting. We thanked Chief Mattigan, Tom Younger and Mr. Cresta for all there help. This has been discussed at selectman's meeting, articles in papers and on both the Town and police websites.

We had a lengthy discussion on what else can be done to get people to slow down and look out for crosswalks. Also we spoke about where we feel the priorities are for better crosswalks and signage.

We spoke about our disappointment that the promised power doors on town hall still have not been completed and we have no positive answers going forward on when this will be done, although promised last fall and again this past spring.

Discussion occurred revolving funds for the commission. We discussed the account that was suppose to be set up, for the commission and the funds from handicap related tickets going into this. The commission has heard nothing about this.

We did have a discussion about Clarke School and the hold up on its handicap renovations. Trisha Malphrus spoke about requesting information from them, thru "The freedom of information act" and still had an issue. Unfortunately, because the commission has no funds, Trisha was unable to obtain this information, as the cost of copying was $.20 a sheet and there were over 830 sheets. Trisha discussed the issue, in getting this, as they waited until the last day, at 2:40 PM and the woman was going on vacation at 3 PM for a week, that she needed to get this paperwork from.

Linda Fistel spoke about community education and a woman she met who does education with a hearing dog. Linda spoke and all agreed to reach out to this woman to come to Swampscott. Linda will reach out to the schools, senior center and assisted living to see if she can come in. The commission also decided we would look into more education in disabilities for the community.

We spoke about working on a resource list fro the community and have that available on line.

We also spoke about finishing and on going side walk and curb cut map of the town. This will outline for us, where the priorities need to be. Sam Paster will do some work on it, this week.

Adjourned at 8:30