

Subj: **Commission on Disability March 2010 Minutes**
Date: 4/14/2010 8:45:56 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: cleosmid@aol.com
To: lee1040@aol.com
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

DATE: Thursday, 18 March, 2010

LOCATION: Winthrop Senior Center
Harvard Street
Winthrop 02152

MEMBERSHIP:

Present:

John
Gerry
Susan
Tink
Linda
Lee

Absent:

Gloria
Kathy

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:06pm

BUSINESS CONDUCTED:

A request has been received from the President of the Town Council that he would like a list of the personnel on this Commission with their names, addresses, and phone numbers. Dates of membership and renewal dates should be included.

No applications for any committee have been considered at the present time because there is no actual job description on file for exactly what a committee member would be doing if applying for position. Committees of the town should have a job description in place. A message is being sent to all town committees to define the committee itself and what the responsibilities are.

The Commission on Disability is clearly define under Mass General Law.

Gerry's legislation that he has been working on.....Senate Bill 445.....has received the support of Petrucelli.

AAB Conformance Results:

#1. Seacoast Realty because of the change of use of the property they will have to comply with all the rules and regulations regarding disability access.

Seacoast had explained to AAB that they were waiting for Traffic Safety Advisory to reply with an answer regarding entrance and egress since November 2009, supposedly the result and a definitive answer should be received by March 24th. They were also looking into "lift" information. Should know all by end of March.

#2. Gorman School. AAB contacted 2/23/2010. A reply was requested in 14days regarding the chained "inaccessible" handicapped parking spot.

A request was made by the Chairperson for an expenditure of \$73.89 for a book of stamps and computer ink.

Request was voted on and accepted by the membership.

A letter was received from Geoffrey Doogan..MOD Commissioner and Asst. Director of Human Services stating that he would like

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RECEIVED
2010 MAY -5 A 11:36
TOWN CLERK
"THROU MAIL"

to visit our commission, offered assistance with issues, verify important updates and explain census questions and how they would pertain to the handicapped and disabled.

A discussion of House Bill 307 which would extend rights for those handicapped/disabled who only have a state I.D., they must have an alcohol license as well. Since they don't have drivers licenses they consider these two for identification purposes.

VR Act is the vocational rehabilitation act. We will be hearing more on this act as it progresses.

House Bill 45 regarding AAB will balance out federal law.

MOD on employment is Model Employer Initiative.

Emergency preparation for those in need.....training with MOD.

Senate Bill 1880 will deal the ID issues.

Senate Bill 2172 will deal with animal control issues...point of issue...service animals need not be certified.

Mass is changing the laws on House Bill 2206 and House Bill 45 but both require additional information.

Giving Sight to the Blind by Robert Greenberg deals with implants for the blind. Helping people to see crosswalks or doorways by giving them a retinal implant camera on a pair of glasses to eye retina. "Second Sight" is being tested right now but tests and glasses are costing roughly around \$100k.

Mass EDP has phones for all kinds of disabilities...the blind, the deaf, those with cognitive issues, larynx problems etc. We had one brochure . Gerry took to review.

Janet LeBrec, Commissioner for the Blind, attended the last meeting of the visually impaired group here at the senior center and explained in detail services that visually impaired people needed. Nancy Williams will be writing an article for the senior center newspaper regarding this meeting and those services.

Veterans and services were touched on because the "returnees" are not getting what they needed. It was also mentioned that not every city and town in Massachusetts has a Veteran advocate like Winthrop. Larry Holmes works for and with returning veterans to see if and what services a veteran may require here in Winthrop.

State agencies are watching the budget surrounding the "Older Americans Act" at the federal level to see if major changes will take place. At this time the federal level is not covering hearing and blind equipment.

All Senators will receive packets of information for the following:

1. Pedestrian Safety Act regarding "silent" vehicles. The DOT needs to take action on this bill.
2. Technology Bill of Rights for the Blind. This regards user interface for products.
3. Earnings Penalty Removal for the Blind. Right now they are allowed \$1640.00 per month.

These packets with the bills that directly concern Massachusetts disabled will be "hand" carried to Governor Patrick, Senator Brown, Senator Kerry and Representative Markey.

Jean Maguire at the state level is the Assistant Secretary of Human Services.

Brief discussion regarding private clubs here in Winthrop that have continually not addressed the accessibility issues but rent out space for public use. Several locations were mentioned...one in particular which rents to a well known town wide organization on an annual basis for more than one occasion that they are involved in.....

It was noted that a "Green House" will be opening in Chelsea in May 2010. The Leonard Florence Center for Living at 165 Captains Row for those living independently. Totally environmentally green.

The subject of the Winthrop Public Landing construction was discussed. Construction has been held up for another three

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months on account of federal funding. It is so torn up that they may not be completed this season. Question is where does this leave access by the handicapped/disabled should they wish to visit the pier in the summer months?

St. John's Episcopal Church's parish hall entrance will have to be checked for access ability. Lip at door site may make the hall inaccessible. Commission chair will check level.

Towards the end of our meeting John brought up a subject that caused a great deal of interest throughout the commission members. He introduced ideas for a "Disability Awareness Seminar" or "A Disability Workshop" sponsored by the Winthrop Commission on Disabilities. It would encompass some of the following subject matter.....persons with disabilities, employees with disabilities, handicapped placards and parking information, all types of literature dealing with types of services, information for persons who find they need to file for disability, disability advice, covering services for the blind, the hearing impaired, our veterans, social security, invite representatives from MOD, the Ride, transportation services, the DCR, occupational therapy, elder affairs, children with special needs, CRW, MassHealth, Nursing home versus home care, Perkins School, MRC, Advocate services for Seniors and Children, Elder Affairs.....the list will go on and discussion will be continued at our next meeting in April.

This is a first for the commission and more discussion will follow to see if a plan can take shape to make this a reality towards the fall.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 15 April, 2010 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted:
Linda McGeorge Acting Secretary for Gloria Evans

Subj: **commission minutes**
Date: 5/10/2010 3:01:16 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: cleosmid@aol.com
To: lee1040@aol.com
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

DATE: 15 APRIL 2010

LOCATION: Winthrop Senior Center
Harvard Street
Winthrop 02152

MEMBERSHIP:

Present

Gerry
Tink
Susan
Linda
Jon
Lee

Absent

Gloria
Kathy

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:10PM

BUSINESS CONDUCTED:

March Minutes:

Read and accepted

Treasurers Report:

\$29,826.00 in fund

Randolph Shepard Act

this law allows blind people to own a vending license eg: coffee shop, paper stand in state house

Drop-Off & Pickup

Mr. McKenna, town manager, signed paperwork for Championship Physical Therapy to have a 15 minute dropoff
and pickup space at the front door and a second handicapped parking spot in parking lot at back door.

Mass Office of Disabilities

On May 10th and 11th, Monday/Tuesday 9a-4p at Medford City Hall there will be a 2 day instructional session on
Comm Access Monitor Training. The fee will be \$15.00 consumers and \$85.00 for professionals.

Accessibility

Seacoast Realty is going before the Board of Appeals. Notice is in the transcript with details. No result regarding
accessibility has been made yet.

A visit was made to the Winthrop Elks on Washington Avenue. The handicapped lift is in place and there is accessibility
to the first floor. They are still working on a lift/elevator for second floor hall accessibility.

Lynn to California

On June 5th...Matt Eddy will begin his second time traveling for 120 days for the Duchene Muscular

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Distrophy. He hopes to raise \$100million. His first trip was the result of an eviction in 2008. He is also looking for an RV that would give him a place to rest, eat and sleep this time around.

Disability 911 List

The Winthrop Police list contains only 11 names who have self-identified. The towns emergency help list is held by the Winthrop Fire dept. and by Jean Maggio at the Health Department. It is part of the "emergency preparedness" for the town. The paper for self-identifying is sent out with the census yearly so that people can place themselves on the list for assistance in time of emergency for the town. It is updated yearly...those who moved, passed on or have left the town to live elsewhere in a nursing facility or with family are dropped off and new are put on if information is provided.

This list came up as an item for discussion as Tink had a home visit from an officer to see if she still wanted to be on the list. Tink suggested that an officer come to a Commission meeting and explain "Disability 911" to our members. The official 911 Disability Indicator Form for the Police Department contains such information as: life support, mobility, deaf, blind, use TTY, speech impediments, developmental disabilities etc. This list also is a self identifier but would keep all departments on the same page regarding town wide emergencies and 911's.

Gerry had explained Winthrop's self identifying emergency call list to Paul Mullen of the Commission for the Blind. He also explained it at a Region 6 Meeting for the Blind at the senior center.

Monkey Business:

Helping Hands of Allston is a unique organizations that trains monkeys to be hands for those who do not have the use of their own. They train Capuchin monkeys 6-8 pounds at a cost of \$40k to train and place. At the present they have 35 monkeys in training, 45 monkeys have been placed and 70 monkeys are in foster care until ready for training.

Casino Jobs

Robert DeLeo has put in a bill to make way for casinos here in Massachusetts. If and when these casinos are put in place will there be jobs available to the disabled who have the capacity to work a full time/part time job? Back to the Randolph Shepard Act for vending at Suffolk Downs, Wonderland, Raynham etc.

Jon will followup with Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun to check and see if they have any jobs being worked by the disabled.

VR Act

Two sections of this act are dealing with employment issues.

Handicapped Parking

Two requests received

1. 79 Terrace Avenue
a ten year old child with MS
2. Holy Rosary Church
secretary requests a site right in front of the rectory.
there is no parking on that side of the street

Upcoming benefit

Jon brought commission up to date on upcoming Marfans benefit

Vice Chairmanship

Commission no longer has a vice-chairman. Chair requests that members give some thought to who should be given the position in the group

Workshop/Seminar Notes

to be added to the list for further discussion.....ideas being brought out during brainstorming
contact organizations for brochures and literature
time to hold something such as this event - suggest after September
"who is disabled"
where to go to get information on the different disabilities
are we allowed to do a mailing?
Federation of Children with Special Needs

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