

Subj: **commission minutes**  
Date: 5/10/2010 3:01:16 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [cleosmid@aol.com](mailto:cleosmid@aol.com)  
To: [lee1040@aol.com](mailto: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

Monday, May 10, 2010 AOL: Lee1040

Distrophy. He hopes

a 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

Package of computer software  
talking book program  
gadgets available for blind assistance - check with Gloria  
Mike Festa - Director of Carroll Center  
rep from each agency would be excellent  
coverage area - Winthrop only for now  
vision support group  
children - elderly - adults - visually impaired - veterans .... what services available?  
Info from Medfords workshop/seminars  
advocacy for each group  
legal services for the elderly  
technology - MaryAnn Hughes good resource  
types of equipment to make life easier  
more to come.....

**Next Meeting Date:**

Thursday 20 May, 2010 at 7:00pm

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:30pm