

## Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 05/25/2022, 5:00 pm.

**Present:** Johnstone Campbell, Lawrence Dubois, Tay Silveira, Rick Dunderdale, Viv Price

**Guests:** Marie Rohan and Leslie Hennessey

Johnstone called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. and made several announcements to the group.

Larry motioned to accept the minutes of 04/20/2022, Rick seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Johnstone let the group know that Lisa Wong had given permission to distribute the COD survey. Johnstone will look for places we can distribute the survey and options of places that will send out notices of the survey.

The topic of COD's guest list for upcoming meetings. Tay said that the state had some information on emergency preparation for handicapped individuals. Larry stated that some of the information was available on the town website under the health department but that it didn't drive people to answers they may need. Tay said she had links to topics on the state site that were more focused on individuals with handicaps and would provide the links to the group. Larry stated that one of the issues with getting information to the public is knowing what the individuals might need and knowing where the information for that individual was located within the town structure.

Johnstone said that the process of getting information to the public was an early goal of the group. He thought the group should get back to being more proactive. He asked if that was a direction the group should be moving toward. Leslie stated that she thought the group had started to move toward getting information to the community by accepting the invitation to speak at the senior center. Leslie said she would put the contact information for COD on the senior news letter.

Johnstone gave a brief explanation of what he planned to present to the seniors when he met with them.

Johnstone mentioned that the group should develop a flier that provided information about the commission and what should be on it. Johnstone said that Leslie was willing to help with the development of the flier. Rick brought up that the group should identify items that should be on the flier or brochure. Leslie, Tay and Rick will work on developing the flier or brochure.

Johnstone mentioned that adding a ramp to town hall for accessibility was a concern of both COD and the COA. Viv mentioned the cost of a ramp was very high and it may not be possible to construct one due to the design of the building. The discussion was turned to the elevator and the fact it was currently down. Viv stated that they could call town hall and someone would meet them. Larry started to give the number to call and then realized it was just the town hall's main number and no extension was given. The group agreed that dropping you at the phone tree was a confusing place to drop someone.

Next meeting is scheduled for 06/15/2022 at 5pm.

Larry motioned to adjourn at 6:04 pm Tay seconded and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)