

Town of South Hadley Commission on Disabilities

Minutes of virtual meeting of Commission on Disabilities. 06/15/2022, 5:00 pm.

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

Guests: Marie Rohan (Joined the meeting at 5:20)

Johnstone called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Larry motioned to accept the minutes of 05/25/2022 as revised, Rick seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Viv announced to the group that he receives announcements of work shops and other educational material related to disabilities. He asked if the group wished to be copied and we agreed that we would like to be added to his distribution of the material.

Johnstone and Larry talked about the 2 candidates that had been met with the selectboard hoping to become part of the commission. Marie who we knew from past meetings and April who is an associate professor at U mass working to make there site accessible and training students on that process.

Johnstone said that the group should look at increasing the commission to 7 individuates. To get the commission size we will need to put together a list of justifications for the increase.

Marie Rohan joined the meeting.

Tay talked about her and Johnstone going to the senior center to talk about what the commission does and how to contact us.

Johnstone went over feedback from the low vision group. Their no 1 concern was sidewalks. They also would like to have all elevators voice announce elevator status, and were concerned with the difficulty in filling town census and paperwork.

Johnstone talked about the survey and how to get the survey returned. Johnstone will talk to Lisa about using the drop box at town hall and about getting printed copies. Larry mentioned that once changes were made to indicate how to return, we can place a copy on the COD page.

Johnstone talked about when next to meet with Jeff Dugan to bring us up to speed with commission training. We decided to try to get all current and possible future members to attend.

Tay brought up the touch to communicate boards that are made available through Doug Flutie's group. Larry gave a brief explanation of the project and that Andy Rogers of the rec. department would be submitting a request for signs. Marie asked about handicap equipment at the park and Larry replied that until the next grant process for the park additional HC equipment was not anticipated. Larry also stated that a new grant application might be coming in 2-3 years.

Johnstone talked a little about a new bench program that MPIC is forming to explore increasing seating throughout town. Tay stated that there is some information on the topic on page 93 of COD plan.

Larry asked if the members should be sending Johnstone reasons to increase the size of the commission. Johnstone said he would like to receive input.

There was a discussion about what had happened with suggestion on ARPA spending . Viv said he would be finding out more soon.

Next meeting is scheduled for 07/20/2022 at 5pm.

Larry motioned to adjourn at 6:10 pm Rick seconded and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Dubois (Secretary)