

BARNSTABLE DISABILITY COMMISSION

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Linda McKinney
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Eileen Elias
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Barnstable Disability Commission
Minutes
November 20, 2024
via Zoom from 10 am to 12 pm

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Paul Logan; Chair, Patty Ericson – Taylor, Lori Gillen, Linda McKinney, and Tammy Cunningham, Deputy Director of HR and ADA Coordinator.

Others Present: Charles McGowan, Andrea Figaretto, Wheldon Library, Chris Gonnella, Director of Community Services, Rhonda Garren, Sight Loss Services, Mackenzie Bonaiuto, COD, Lisa Judelson, Sight Loss Services, and Peter Bertling, Transportation and Parking Manager.

Members Excused: Sheila Mulcahy, John Lundborn, and Inna Podgornaya

Minutes of October 16, 2024 – Patty Ericson – Taylor moved to approve as amended, Linda McKinney seconded. Unanimous.

Discussion on Whelden Library – Andrea Figaratto attended to follow up and answer questions the Commissioners may have about the library’s plans to improve accessibility. Eighteen to twenty patrons daily could benefit from the accessible book drop. Twenty to thirty percent require assistance or come with help. The total cost for the accessible book drop is \$24,500. Due to where the new accessible book drop will need to be located it will still require someone to get out of there car and access the drop. The book drop will not be drive thru. The drop is accessible, but not by car.

Speaker – Lisa Judelson, Support Group Leader at Sight Loss Services & chairperson of the Sandwich Commission on Disability and Rhonda Garran, Director of Site Loss Services

Rhonda Garran provided the following information on Barnstable residents receiving services from Sight Loss Services; 2023 909 units to 254 residents of 72 for information, 520 education and awareness, 117 adaptive aids, 1 home visit, and 330 outreach. 2024 633 units delivered with 197 unduplicated. Pertaining to the support group, 14 Barnstable residents attended the most recent meeting.

Lisa Judelson gave background on the education program she has developed with the Sandwich Public Schools. It started several years ago at the Forestdale School. She and a few other individuals will go into the first and second grade classrooms once or twice a year to talk with the kids about blindness and low vision. Lisa stated it has been incredibly successful in connecting with the young kids who ask all kinds of great questions. Three people are sent at a time. With older kids they will sometimes have assemblies.

Rowing to Recovery Water Access (Lake Wequaquet in Centerville) - Lois Fournier and Sheila Mulcahy have met with John Gleason and it is very probable that they can make it happen for Rowing to Recovery to row at Wequaquet Lake.

Community Outreach Events – Lori Gillen made a motion to approve the expense of up to \$750 to be spent on the purchasing of materials and give aways at community outreach events, Linda McKinney seconded. Unanimous.

Lori Gillen will send Paul a list of suggested items for purchasing.

Paul Logan stated the 2025 Rotary Home and Garden show will be coming up in March. The Commission discussed participation again this year. Patty Ericson Taylor made a motion to approve spending up to \$2500 for a booth at the 2025 Rotary Home and Garden show held at HYCC, Linda McKinney seconded. Unanimous.

Report from Scholarships Sub Committee – Linda McKinney voted to approve the continued distribution of 6 scholarships in the amount of \$2000 a piece. Distribution at each school as follows 2 Barnstable High School, 1 Cape Cod Tech, 2 Project Forward, and 1 Sturgis, Patty Ericson Taylor seconded. Unanimous.

Whole Foods Accessible Parking – A brief discussion was held on the accessible parking spaces at Whole Foods. Paul Logan stated he has reached out to the Building Commissioner as he believes the store is short two spaces.

Attendance at Site Loss Plan Review was mentioned as a means to address parking and other items at the stage of development and planning.

Financial Report – Current balance is \$46,488.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair – None

Motion to adjourn by Lori Gillen at 11:22 am, Patty Ericson - Taylor seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy L. Cunningham