

Town of Southington Commission on DisAbility
April 8, 2008 meeting minutes

Call meeting to order: 6:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Wendy Henderson, John Noel,
Karen Cavanaugh, Terry Dickinson, Wilton Hawes,
Eileen LeBlanc, Lyn Johnson

John will email everyone an updated roster.

Unexcused Absences: Sharon Neupaver

Excused Absences: Wesley Babkirk

Determination of Quorum: Yes

Public Forum: None

Minutes from last meeting: Corrections to March's minutes: In Old Business, Lyn went to the Rainbow playground and reported that two new accessible picnic tables were in place under the pavilions. Under Transportation, Lyn was to wait till John returned from vacation and talk to him first before contacting Louis Perillo III. Under New Business regarding the Handicap Etiquette booklets, they were to be passed out after we stamped them with our new commission stamp. With these changes the March 2008 meeting minutes were accepted.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Lyn Johnson

Correspondence: None

Financial Report: No new expenditures were reflected in this month's appropriation summary. Receipts were submitted for reimbursement by Lyn for our new stamp with our commission name and P.O. Box number on it and by Wendy for copies made of our respite care applications. Our new budget for the year has as of yet to be approved. John will check the playground account to see if the Parks and Rec Dept. received the balance of this account as planned to help pay for the accessible picnic tables.

Motion to accept: Karen Cavanaugh Seconded: Lyn Johnson

Old Business:

Transportation: We discussed getting additional handicap accessible transportation through the Calendar House by way of the purchase of another van. As a follow up on a January 17th meeting with Mr. Verdane director of the Calendar House, John will contact him regarding his offer to come and speak at one of our meetings. We would like to work with him to increase van service in town. Hopefully he can make our meeting in May. In February there was an article in the Record Journal relating that officials from Cheshire, Meriden and Southington were working together to establish a tri-town bus route that would run 5 days a week. Southington's economic development coordinator Louis

Perillo III was the official from our town that was working on this project. Lyn Johnson will contact him for further information.

Lyn said there was a transportation conference at the XL Center in Hartford on May 15th from 9 to 12:00 noon. It's sponsored by the Department of Social Services and Connectability. Wendy put together a packet with a cover letter and a CD of our transportation forum held last June to be sent to John Meyers of Southington Cares and to Bob Verdaname director of the Calendar house in an effort to garner their support for increased transportation in town for the handicapped.

Respite Care: No new applications have been received. New applications were made by Wendy and given to commission members to be made available at the town hall, the Library, schools throughout town, the visiting nurse association and the Dept of Social Services for town residents. Wilton were put together an article regarding our respite care program and will bring a draft to our May meeting.

Poster Contest: The poster contest will be held in October. There was discussion of having the winning entries laminated and displayed at possibly the library or the town hall. Terry will familiarize others on the commission of what has to be done to organize the poster contest so that we can all lend a hand in making it happen.

The idea was brought up of purchasing a laptop computer to allow all our commission information to be more readily available at meetings. It was decided not to pursue this due to the expense and the fact that our level of paperwork did not warrant it at this time.

Emergency Preparedness: DSS safety registration promotion: No further info at this time.

Publicity for file of life: No further info. at this time.

Outreach:

Handicap Etiquette booklets: From the United Spinal Association were brought in by Wendy, stamped with our commission name and P.O. Box and handed out to commission members to be distributed throughout town.

Update resource guide: On hold

Web site: On hold

Braille menus: On hold

Visions for 2008: Ideas were discussed regarding issues that the commission could focus on this coming year:

Our overall goal is to expand awareness of our commission and accessibility issues to town residents by:

 Holding a Poster Contest

 Addressing transportation needs for the handicapped

 Respite care

These would be our main focus along with other issues brought before the commission by members of the community

 Motion to accept: Terry Dickinson Seconded: Lyn Johnson

New Business: No new business

Motion to accept: Karen Cavanaugh Seconded: Wilton Hawes

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 13th, 2008 at the Southington Water Department
at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made to adjourn: Karen Cavanaugh Seconded: Wilton Hawes

Meeting adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: John Noel Secretary/Treasurer