

Town of Southington Commission on DisAbility

May 14, 2008 meeting minutes

Call meeting to order: 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Wendy Henderson, John Noel, Wesley Babkirk,  
Karen Cavanaugh, Terry Dickinson, Wilton Hawes,  
Eileen LeBlanc, Sharon Neupaver, Lyn Johnson.

Determination of Quorum: Yes

Public Forum: Bob Verderame director of the Calendar House brought material that he passed out regarding the services the senior center offered and fielded questions regarding transportation of the seniors and disabled citizens in town. One of the handouts stated that "without a State of Connecticut bus transit line going through our town, further development of our Dial-A-Ride program appears to be inevitable". Mr. Verderame has recently submitted a grant for another bus. When asked about the proposed tri town bus route between Meriden, Cheshire and Southington, Bob said it was a work in progress and he had no hard facts as of yet. From the handouts Bob passed out, it was clear that the Calendar House was busy providing a lot of valuable resources and services to the elderly and disabled residents of Southington.

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes to April's meeting were accepted as read

Motion to accept: Wes Babkirk Seconded: Karen Cavanaugh

Correspondence: One respite care application was received. John spoke with Mark Pooler YMCA Camp Sloper director regarding accessibility at the camp.

Financial Report: No receipts for expenditures were submitted this month. Our new budget for the year has as of yet to be approved. John checked the playground account and Jiggy from the Parks and Rec Dept, has not as yet taken the balance of this account to help pay for the accessible picnic tables at the Rainbow Playground. John left a message at his office for him to do so.

Motion to accept: Lyn Johnson Seconded: Wilton Hawes

Old Business:

Transportation: See notes on public forum.

Tri-town bus route: Lyn has not yet contacted Louis Perillo III for more information on this project.

Transportation Conference: John and Wilton agreed to attend this workshop at the Hartford Expo Center on May 15th.

Respite Care: One new application has been received. All applications will be reviewed at our June meeting. Wendy will do a follow-up report to the Main Street Foundation regarding their \$3,000 respite grant. She asked John to get a detailed accounting on the grants expenditures for her report. Wilton drafted a news article which he will e-mail to everyone for their comments.

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 Wes to bring to the Chamber of Commerce.

Poster Contest: The poster contest will be held in October. Terry said nothing had to be done as of yet.

Motion to accept: Terry Dickinson Seconded: Lyn Johnson

New Business:

Bob Upton called Karen from the Fire Department regarding obtaining special smoke detectors for 10 hearing impaired children. Karen will check on the costs before our next meeting and the possibility of getting them donated. There was discussion of using funds from our special projects account. This issue will be further addressed during our next meeting.

Lyn was asked by the Grange if there was a way to get help for them so they could obtain a ramp which would make access to their events that much easier. Wes suggested that they contact Home Depot to see if they would donate the material.

Reverse 911: Wendy asked Karen to check on this service.

Camp Sloper Accessibility: John spoke with Mark Pooler director of Camp Sloper. He was asked if there was a way for people who were in wheel chairs and couldn't walk to get into the pond. He said no. When asked if the trail around the pond was accessible to wheel chairs, he said no, but they were trying to get a grant to do that. Mr. Pooler said there were accessible bathrooms.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Eileen LeBlanc

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 10th, 2008 at the Southington Water Dept. 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