

Town of Southington Commission on DisAbility

November 11, 2008 meeting minutes

Call meeting to order: 6:11 p.m.

Roll Call: Wendy Henderson, John Noel, Wesley Babkirk
Terry Dickinson, Wilton Hawes Eileen LeBlanc, Sharon Neupaver, Lyn Johnson
Unexcused absences: Karen Cavanaugh
Determination of Quorum: Yes

Public Forum: None

Minutes from last meeting: Minutes to October 2008 meeting under new business regarding Lyn's comment about sidewalk dining was amended to read "when there was a tree on the sidewalk, then and only then was there a problem with space for a wheelchair". October's meeting minutes were then accepted.

Motion to accept: Lyn Johnson Seconded: Terry Dickinson

Correspondence: We received two new respite care applications. Evelyn Cello from the town clerk's office called and asked that we send her a list of our 2009 meeting dates, time, and location.

Financial Report: Two new respite care applications were reviewed and one old applicant who sent us the required receipts were awarded a total of \$1650 leaving a balance of \$3875 in our respite care account. There was also one expenditure of \$8.40 for postage stamps.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Wes Babkirk

Old Business:

Respite Care: Two new applications were received this month. A previous applicant sent in the required receipts and a total of \$1650 was awarded to these applicants. The dates on future respite care applications will be on an annual basis from April 1st to March 31st. Wilton will draft a news article on our respite care program to be submitted to the papers in February.

Transportation: Wes had a DVD copy made of the transportation forum meeting and gave it to Lyn who will put together a packet to give to Lou Perillo III Southington's economic development coordinator.

Tri-town bus route: No new information regarding this issue.

Poster Contest: No new information regarding this issue.

Town Hall Handicap Parking: John sent a letter to John Barry and the town council regarding the need to make available a wider handicap parking space to accommodate a ramp van. Camp Sloper accessibility: No new information regarding this issue.

Historical Society building: John spoke with town attorney Mark Sciota regarding building a ramp to make the building accessible. Mark said that he walked the grounds with Bob Cusano, and that one option was to build a cement ramp to the office building next door, as there is no room for parking on the grounds. Mark said to do that that he would have to enter into right of way negotiations with the building's owner. Mark said the town engineer was also looking into this issue.

Center Street Outdoor Dining: Wilton obtained a copy of ordinance 17-162 OUTDOOR DINING ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY. He also brought in pictures of the placement of outdoor fencing placed around outdoor tables on Center Street. The ordinance said a "minimum four foot unobstructed passway measured from the curb line for pedestrian traffic" must be provided for. Some of the restaurants on Center Street may be in violation of this ordinance, especially where trees are located in the sidewalk. Lyn will call town council chairman John Barry and inform him of our concerns regarding this issue. She will also ask if a town council liason could be appointed.

Motion to accept: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Lyn Johnson

New Business:

Business Cards: Wilton asked about obtaining business cards and will contact the town clerk's office regarding this issue.

Post Office Accessibility: Wilton related that a town resident complained about the inaccessibility of the post office down town. It is our understanding that this building is grandfathered in and doesn't have to build a ramp.

North Center School voting: Wilton related that there was only one handicap space available and no ramp when he went to vote there recently. Wilton will draft a letter to the registrar of voters regarding this issue and bring it to our next meeting.

Disability Commission Meetings: Wilton suggested that we have one meeting at the Calendar house and maybe one meeting at Darling street apartments so more people can attend that have difficulty getting transportation to our meeting. It was decided that we may hold informational meetings at these locations instead that would be open to town residents. John suggested that some of us could make field trips to attend disability commission meetings in other towns to talk to our peers and see what their issues are and how they handle them.

Disability Commission 2009 Meeting Dates: A list will be made and sent to the town clerk's office.

Motion to accept: Terry Dickinson Seconded: Wes Babkirk

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 9th, 2008 at the Southington Water Department at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made to adjourn: Wilton Hawes Seconded: Terry Dickinson

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: John Noel Secretary/Treasurer