

**Town of Southington Commission on DisAbilities**  
**Minutes 10-9-07**

Roll Call: Wendy Henderson, Chair ( x ); Terry Dickinson, Vice Chair (x); John Noel, Secretary/Treasurer (excused); Charles Bosworth ( absent ); Karen Cavanaugh ( x ); Lyn Johnson ( x ); Sharon Neupaver ( x ); George Sanchez ( absent ); Wesley Babkirk ( excused ); Dolores Longo, Town Council Representative (absent )

Meeting was called to order at 6:21 p.m.

Public Forum – William Hawes raised two issues. The first was to commend the job performance of a police man at the Apple Harvest Festival in the manner in which he assisted people with disabilities. He was encouraged write a letter to the newspapers. He also expressed a concern about the side walk and doors of the new bank located on Main Street. He did voice his issues to the staff at the bank and was told that the town was supposed to be fixing the sidewalk.

Approval of Minutes – August Minutes were approved. Motion to accept: Sharon Neupaver Seconded: Karen Cavanaugh

Correspondence – Received two new respite reimbursement applications. Two thank you notes from families who received respite reimbursements were read.

Financial Report – The updated appropriation ledger was reviewed and approved. Motion to accept: Terry Dickinson Seconded: Karen Cavanaugh

Old Business

- Rainbow Playground – Wendy Henderson read a report from John Noel. After paying all the expenses to construct the playground, we have \$326 left in our account. Motion made to use the money toward the expense of placing two accessible picnic tables at the park: Lyn Johnson Seconded: Terry Dickinson
- Attendance – John Noel sent another letter to the Town Council Chairman requesting the resignations of and replacements for George Sanchez and Charles Bosworth. These members continue to be absent. It would help if they sent a letter of resignation to the Council.
- Respite Reimbursements
  - Grant (Main Street Foundation) – awarded \$3000. The Town Council needs to approve a new line item. The Council is meeting tonight.
  - Seven requests for respite reimbursements were reviewed and a priority given. A motion was made to pay all seven to the approved level: Sharon Neupaver Seconded: Terry Dickinson
  - Applications will be accepted for reimbursements for services received from July 2006 to December 2007 with a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup> for submission. Wendy Henderson will update the application form.
- Transportation – Sharon Neupaver saw a notice in the newspaper that Calendar House will provide free transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Citizens with transportation issues who approach commissioners will be encouraged to contact Calendar House.
- Emergency Preparedness – Lyn Johnson brought a form used at DSS for safety registration for people with special needs that alerts the 9-1-1 operator and informs police, fire, and medical emergency staff. The form is mailed to AT&T and requires a wireline phone. Karen Cavanaugh will check with the Southington Police Department about what might work for people who only have cell phones.

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- Outreach - Etiquette booklet to be distributed to Council members in November as part of a packet.
- Poster contest in schools – 5<sup>th</sup> grades – Terry Dickinson reported that she will be contacting the Board of Education to ask for a liaison (hopefully an art teacher) to assist this year. She expects to start the contest process in February.
- Accessibility – Library Electric Doors are being or have been installed by Susan Smayda, Director. She is planning to address other accessibility issues regarding the inside of the building as well.

New Business

- We received a citizen complaint that there is no handicap parking at ARC of Southington. A discussion ensued about the difficulty of all parking at the site. Lyn Johnson will speak with Sandy Amato, Executive Director.
- Another citizen complaint had to do with the colors on curb cut outs that makes seeing where the wheelchair needs to go difficult. Commissioners were not sure what this meant. Wendy Henderson will take note of cut outs around town before the next meeting.
- Wendy Henderson has accepted an invitation to serve on the Heroes to Hometowns Committee established by the American Legion. Its goal is to help veterans returning from the war who have become disabled.
- For the first time, the Commission was requested to provide Apple Harvest Parking Monitoring by John Ryan. Three Commissioners were able to volunteer given the short notice we received. Improvements were discussed if we should be asked again next year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 6 PM

Location: Water Department

Motion to adjourn: Sharon Neupaver Seconded: Karen Cavanaugh

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wendy Henderson, Chairperson