WESTWOOD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

January 13, 2017 9:15am

Municipal Offices Carby Street

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Berry Goodfellow, MaryAnne Carty, Michelle Fiola-Reidy, Fran MacQueen, Jette Meglan, Mary Sethna, Tom Barner, Connie Rizoli and Chuck Taylor

GUESTS: Lina Arena-DeRosa, Westwood COA, and Sheryl Leary, HESSCO

1. Attendance and approval of Minutes
2. New Business
3. Connie gave a report on the Mass Office on Disability conference call in

December. Topics were:

* + - * Grant program for ADA compliance for municipalities
      * Enforcement of Accessible Parking regulations
      * Collaboration between Commissions on Disability and building inspectors
      * increase in membership on Commissions
      * Website and document accessibility

1. Sheryl confirmed that Sarah Foss will be the speaking at the “Caring for the Caregiver” event March 30th. Sheryl gave an overview of the talk. The presentation is designed to empower the caregiver with a set of tangible goals. The COD will provide the speaker with an honorarium to cover her expenses since she is no longer working for HESSCO and is now in private practice. Sheryl will provide us with a suggested amount.

Sheryl will arrange to have a qualified person provide chair massages.

HESSCO will also provide a folder of resource information.

1. Lina will ask our cable provider (Westwood Media Center) if they will videotape the presentation.

Lina will also include the flyer in both the Community News letter and the Council on Aging news letter. Lina will inform Mary Beechinor, the Town Nurse; the White Oak Cottages - Memory Café; and the EPOCH assisted living center.

Lina volunteered to arrange for bottled water and light refreshments.

1. Sheryl, Anne and Jette will work on the flyer, and the text for the sandwich boards.

5. Maryanne will take care of ordering and placing sandwich boards

6. Mary Sethna will distribute flyers to the ARCs

7. Connie will distribute flyers to the churches and the Interfaith clergy.

8. Chuck will contact the Mass Office on Disability to request a short summary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1. Reports
2. SEPAC: The effort to rejuvenate the SEPAC has met with success as parent participation has increased. The next meeting scheduled for January 17, at 7PM.
3. Housing -
   1. Concern has been raised about handicapped access to the rental offices at Highland Glen. Chuck will visit to determine if the offices are handicapped accessible.
   2. Chuck also informed the Commission about Medicaid requirements related to the inspection of fire doors in residential facilities.
   3. Sheryl Leary provided information on legal services available to Senior citizens through MetroWest Legal Services. Seniors who receive a notice of an increase in rent beyond the amount covered by a Section 8 voucher or receive an eviction notice should contact MetroWest Legal Services for assistance. <http://www.mwlegal.org/work/elder-law>
4. Connie gave a report on potential federal action that will adversely affect individuals with disabilities. There was a general discussion of the need to be informed on federal changes and to be in contact with our Congressional delegation to voice any concerns that we have about negative changes. The Commission should work together with other organizations that are concerned with disability issues such as the Veterans organizations.
5. The meeting adjourned at 11:15AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2017 @ 9:15 AM at the 50 Carby Street Municipal building.