

Westwood Disability Commission
May 11, 2022 9:00 A.M.
via Zoom Webinar

Minutes

Attendees:

Commission Members: Anne Berry Goodfellow, MaryAnne Carty, Rania Kelly, Jette Meglan, Connie Rizoli

Agenda item: Approval of February 9, 2022 Minutes

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda item: New Business – Comments from the Chair

Anne spoke of her commitment to the Commission and to individuals with disabilities. She said that she needed to step back from her long-standing role as the Chair and Co-chair of the Commission on Disabilities.

The Commission has an important role in ensuring that the needs of individuals with disabilities are considered in Town policies and activities. Over the last few years, the COVID 19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect on services to individuals with disabilities and has even affected our own members abilities to participate in the Commission meetings. Over the coming months, we need to find new members of the community to take on this role and make sure that current needs of individuals with disabilities are recognized and addressed.

Agenda item: New Business - Voting Access

MaryAnne asked to discuss voting accessibility. All of the voting precincts have been consolidated at the High School. MaryAnne brought some friends to the High School to vote in the Town election and wanted to identify some issues that she hopes can be addressed for future elections.

- Parking was tight, and, in her opinion, there were not enough Handicapped Parking spaces considering the consolidation of the precincts.
- The signage was confusing for both the entrance and the exits. The entrance was accessible, but the exit was not. Apparently, the accessible door is to be used for both entrance and exit, but the signage for this was not clear. As a result, one of the individuals who MaryAnne brought to vote had a difficult time exiting.
- Individuals with disabilities are sometimes embarrassed to identify as disabled and ask for accommodation. Improved signage would minimize embarrassment.
- MaryAnne suggested that members of the Commission walk through the voting location before the election to identify anything that could be improved.

Agenda item: Adjournment 10AM and Next Meeting August 8, 2022 3:00PM