

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY'S RECORD

August 3, 2023

ATTENDANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm via Zoom webinar participation by Chair Rania Kelly and the following Commission members: MaryAnne Carty, Stephanie Finegold, Marianne LeBlanc Cummings (Select Board Liaison), Missy O'Regan, Elizabeth Polin, and Connie Rizoli. Michelle Fiola Reidy joined the meeting late. Also attending were retiring Commission members Anne Berry Goodfellow and Jette Meglan. Absent: Mary Sethna and Frances MacQueen. Staff Liaison Janice Donovan recorded the minutes.

Chair R. Kelly read the Commission on Disability's Mission Statement:

The mission of the Commission on Disability is to provide information, referral, guidance, and technical assistance to residents and Town departments on matters of disability.

OLD BUSINESS

Accept Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2023

Upon a motion by C. Rizoli and seconded by M. O'Regan, Commission members voted unanimously in favor to approve the Minutes as written via a roll call vote: M. Carty (aye), S. Finegold (aye), R. Kelly (aye), M. O'Regan (aye), E. Polin (aye), and C. Rizoli (aye).

NEW BUSINESS

Set up Monthly Zoom Caretaker Meetings

R. Kelly, S. Finegold, and L. Polin initiated this discussion on the desire to offer Westwood parents and caregivers a supportive, virtual gathering place to share experiences via Zoom. R. Kelly would like to offer these meetings immediately, beginning in September. Meetings would be held monthly and would offer daytime and evening meeting times.

Several discussion points came up:

- What is the purpose and intention of this group?
- Who will be the facilitator of this group?
- Will a private Zoom account be required?
- Will a confidentiality agreement be required?
- Will these meetings be subject to Open Meeting Law?
- A trial meeting was suggested to gauge interest in this group.
- What is a good start date and what day and time is best?
- A meeting with our Human Services Director, Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Town Clerk, and possibly other staff will be needed to review and seek guidance on this proposal.
- J. Donovan will get coordinate this information for the Commission by the next meeting.

Thank you to resigning Commission Members

Commission members commended Anne Berry Goodfellow, who has served on the Commission for over 40 years, and Jette Meglan who served for more than 20 years. Fellow Commission members praised Ms. Berry Goodfellow and Ms. Meglan on each's accomplishments.

REPORTS & FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

MA FY24 Final Budget Released

C. Rizoli shared an information fact sheet prepared by ARC outlining increased funding for people with disabilities which was recently approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor for approval as part of the 2024 state budget. A copy of this document is available with these minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Status of Commission Appointments

J. Donovan reported that C. Rizoli was reappointed for one year; M. Sethna was reappointed for a three-year term; and one vacancy remains. Last month a resident was recommended to the Select Board's office and made contact and said that she would submit her application later this summer.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

August 3, 2023

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- *The next meeting is Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 1 pm via Zoom webinar*
- *The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm*