

Commission on Disability

Meeting Minutes, July 11th, 2024

Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Zoom Meeting Code: 841-0127-4695 Passcode: 828067

Dial In Number: 1-312-626-6799

Contact: cod@fairhaven-ma.gov

Present: Krystal Lunn (Secretary), Eleanor Chew, Donna Maino Lavallee, Annmarie Chagnon, Cara Viveiros, Jennifer Cardoza, Randall Durrigan (New Member), Martha Reed, Staff Liaison

ZOOM: Pamela Whynot (Chair), Ronnie Medina (Vice-Chair)

Guest: Fairhaven Cable TV

Absent: Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)

All votes were taken by roll call vote

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** Pamela Whynot, chair, read the meeting call to order and the state guidelines and called the meeting to order.
- II. **Welcome and Introduce New Member:** The new member sworn in by the town, Randall Durrigan was introduced and welcomed to the Commission.
- III. **Thank You for Service and Resignation:** Pam, Eleanor and Donna all thanked Glenn Gabbard for all his work on the Commission and told him he would be missed.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Eleanor made a motion to accept the June minutes with a couple of amendments, including changing the spelling of wait and weight under the adaptive bike section. Fairhaven Cable TV was added under guests and "All votes were taken by roll call" was added. Ronnie seconded and the vote was passed 7 yes and two abstained.
- V. **Financial Report:** Pam reported that we have approximately \$1000.00 left in our budget and \$90 in our gift fund.
- VI. **Old Business:**

- a) **Neighborhood News Article:** Pam asked if anyone would want to help her in writing the articles. Eleanor said she would be interested, so they will work on the future articles. Everyone was fine with Eleanor and Pam working on them together. Donna asked who people should reach out to if they wanted to help with future articles. Pam answered that she is the person they can reach out to.
- b) **Update on Work on Accessibility Study:** Martha went over the report for Whitfield-Manjiro House to give us an example of how each property will be written up. It lists what they looked at, what the issue was, was it accessible, what was the barrier, they rate the level of priority and what it will cost to fix it. It is a public document so anyone can look at it once it is completed. There will be a public meeting once it complete around September/October. They have one day left at Fairhaven High School and have to complete the GIS (maps of the roads) survey. Everything should be completed by the end of July.
- c) **Update on ASL Classes:** Last adult class was Tuesday for this session. Around 60% of the people who signed up in the beginning completed the course. They will take a couple weeks off. Then one class will be a beginner and then one class will start off where they ended in the previous beginner class. Krystal spoke with Morgan from the School Department and passed on Shannon's contact information. Morgan is going to speak with her supervisor and see if they will have the funds to pay for the after school program. Donna did bring up having a child's ASL class at either the Town Library or the COA. Donna, Annemarie and Krystal will continue to work on the children's ASL classes.
- d) **Huttleston Market Place Kid's Day:** The Commission on Disability did the Market Place for July. The Commission on Disability had initially set up an obstacle course however, with the rain it was kind of a bust. Donna brought her instruments and they were a huge hit. The Commission on Disability discussed picking a theme for future times and information about local resources. The Commission on Disability will do August and September events and have two shifts. Pam, Eleanor, Cara, Jen and Annemarie will do August 3rd. Krystal, Annemarie, Pam, Ronnie and Donna will do September 7th.
- e) **Update on Diverse Abilities Celebration:** Will be July 28th 11 am- 3 pm at the Rec Center in Fairhaven. The Commission on Disability will be co-sponsoring with M.O.L.I.F.E, INC and The Belonging Committee. There will be a talent show, music, lunch, cake, vendors, activities, and more. The Commission on Disability discussed who is available to help with our table. Pam asked if anyone would be willing to make a motion to spend up to \$100 to print out our Mission statement. Randy made the motion and Annemarie second it passed unanimously. The flyers would be given out that day.
- f) **Disability Pride Month Proclamation Update:** This was added to the Select Board Meeting for 7/15/25
- g) **Adaptive Bike Updates:** Jennifer brought up that the COA/Rec Center has a blank waiver on file and thinks that waiver would be good enough. She asked if all the Commission members were ok with just using that waiver. Jennifer also

brought up that she feels the bike should be open to everyone not just Fairhaven/Acushnet. Donna asked that the working group members that have been working on this should meet and discuss further. Not all Commission Members are on board with opening it to all towns.

- h) **Communication Board:** Jennifer brought up asking for donations from the community to purchase more communication boards. Pam and Martha will look into it and see if we as a Commission are allowed to ask for donations.
- i) **Accessible Parking Spots at Fairhaven High School:** Annemarie has contacted Vinny DPW and Tara Kohler regarding the handicap spots. Mrs. Kohler said she would be taking care of this during the summer.
- j) **Social Media:** Krystal and Annemarie have offered to help with the social media. Pam asked if everyone was ok with it and the entire Commission member agreed it was fine. Pam will reach out to Alyssa and have her send the Town policies for both Krystal and Annemarie to sign. Once the policies have been signed, they will be granted access to the Commission's facebook.

VII. New Business:

“Junior” Commission on Disability: Krystal brought up having junior Commission members, either high school or middle school students. Martha asked that we bring this to the Town Administrator and make sure this is okay to do. Pam will speak with the Town Administrator. The Commission made a work group of Krystal, Annemarie, and Jennifer for this.

- a) **Special Olympics on Fairhaven Cable TV:** Pam said Ronnie is working to have the Dartmouth Special Olympics shared on Fairhaven Cable TV.
- b) **2024-2025 Focus Projects:** Pam asked if everyone could take the month to think about things they would like to focus on this year. She asked if we could send her an email before the next meeting.

VIII. Public Comment: No public comment

VIII. Questions/Comments from COD: Randy brought up how he would like for Fairhaven TV to have an audio statement read about upcoming meetings so that if someone who is watching is blind, they will know what meeting they are watching.

IX. Next Meeting Date – Thursday August 8th, 2024 at 6pm at the Town Hall

X. **Adjournment** – 7:29pm Ann Marie made the motion and Randy seconded it pass unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Lunn

Secretary