

Commission on Disability
Meeting Minutes, September 12th, 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: Pamela Whynot (Chair), Ronnie Medina (Vice-Chair), Krystal Lunn (Secretary), Eleanor Chew, Annemarie Chagnon, Cara Viveiros, Randall Durrigan, Donna Maino Lavallee, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)

ZOOM:

Guest: Fairhaven Cable TV

Absent: Martha Reed, Staff Liaison, Jennifer Cardoza

All votes were taken all in favor

I. Call Meeting to Order: Pamela Whynot, Chair, read the meeting call to order and the state guidelines and called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. Approval Minutes: Eleanor made a motion to accept the August minutes with a couple of amendments, including the spelling of Annemarie's name. Ronnie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report: Pam reported that we have approximately \$1000.00 left in our budget and \$90 in our gift fund.

IV. Old Business:

a. **Neighborhood News Article:** The article discussing the adaptive bike was submitted to the Neighborhood News after our August meeting. Eleanor asked if anyone had any topics they would like to see us send to the Neighborhood News. Annemarie suggested an article about the next ASL classes. Pam suggested an article discussing the all of the accessibilities that are out there, along with the grant hearing. Pam said that if anyone came up with any other topics to reach out to Eleanor.

b. **Accessibility Study:** A preliminary report was sent to the Millicent Library per their request regarding updates that needed to be made to the Library. They have funds available and they wanted to see where that money should go to. Other preliminary reports have also been sent to The Whitfield House, Livesey Park and Willows Park. A staff questionnaire was sent out to Town Employees. They have received 12 responses and are waiting for more. When they were asked for a time line, they said they should have the website report back around September 27th. The town should have a final report sometime around the end of October. There is a grant application available and would be due in May, so hopefully the TA can decide on things to work on and apply for the grant.

c. **ASL Classes:** No update at this time

d. **Adaptive Bike:** The bike is available at the Rec Center. Eleanor suggested removing the word rental from the flyer so people do not think they have to pay to rent the bike. No one has rented the bike yet, however, two people have called to rent an adult bike. Pam is going to look for funding to buy an adult adaptive bike.

e. **Communication Board Update:** Eleanor reported that she and Krystal went to look for the best location for the communication board at Livesey Park. They decided to put it in front of the bush that separates the younger child playground from the older child one. DPW is going to pave the area and put the posts into the ground the week of September 23rd. They will mount the sign and cover it a couple days before the unveiling. Krystal brought up how it would be nice if the chips were removed and a more accessible flooring was placed on both playgrounds. She asked if there was a grant that would pay for it. She will start looking, and if one is found, she will reach out to the DPW. Eleanor did bring up that the DPW is looking to make all of the parks in Fairhaven accessible at some point. The Commission discussed having the unveiling on October 7th at 5pm at Livesey Park near the playgrounds. Eleanor is going to make sure Cable is available and invite the Select Board, TA, DPW and the Commission on Disability. Krystal will reach out to Fun 107.

f. **Accessible Parking Spots at Fairhaven High School:** Annemarie said that when she last spoke with Mrs. Kohler that BPW had ordered the new signs and that they had cut back the trees. However, they may need to be cut back more. Selectman Silvia said he reached out to BPW, and they said the company that is working in front of Wood School would also paint the handicap symbols on other Town owned property that need to be updated if we gave them a list. Annemarie and Krystal will make a post asking Fairhaven residents to message the Commission if they notice any Town property that needs updated signage.

g. **Social Media:** Annemarie brought up doing a blurb of each Commission member if they were comfortable with it, and a different one could be posted each week. The Commission's social media pages started with 219 followers and are now up to 282 since Annemarie and Krystal took over social media. Selectman Silvia suggested asking Cable TV if they could interview the Commission and share it that way. Posting it in Neighborhood News may also be an option.

h. **By-Laws/Writing Warrant Article for November Town Meeting:** Eleanor and Pam did write the Warrant and sent it off to the Town, so the By-Laws will be in the November Town Meeting.

i. **Fairhaven Cable TV Accessibility:** No update at this time

j. **Town Meeting Accessibility & Accommodations:** Krystal discussed all of the accommodations she brought up at the last meeting like breaks, close captions, ASL

interpreter, and the hat system that Adeline uses at school. Annemarie brought up how the CART system is the best process for an individual who is hard of hearing or has an audio processing disorder. Krystal said she will be touring Hasting's Middle School's cafeteria and auditorium with the Committee on October 9th and will bring an update to the next meeting.

k. 2024-2025 Focus Projects:

Randy and Ronnie: no update at this time

Krystal: has a meeting with Tanya Dawson to see how the Commission can help the school. She will reach out to Mrs. Weidenfeller to see if the Commission can run a basketball clinic at East Fairhaven Elementary. She is also going to reach back out to Mrs. Allaire regarding the students' representative. Randy made a motion to have Pam reach out to the School Board and see if they have a formal letter for their student representative. Annemarie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eleanor: no update at this time

Annemarie: has been speaking with local restaurants and seeing which ones have picture menus and brail menus

Cara: no update at this time

Pam: reached out to the Housing Authorities and Peabody to see if they would allow the Commission to do a listening session at their facilities. She has also been making a list of grants that the Commission may be able to use.

V. New Business:

a. Purchase of Weights for the Canopy: Eleanor made a motion to buy weights for the canopy up to \$50. Annemarie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Application for Cultural Council: Eleanor and Annemarie are working on this application. Eleanor made the motion, Ronnie seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

c. **KidsFest:** Annemarie made a motion to be part of Kidsfest, Randy seconded it, and it passed unanimously. Working group will be Eleanor and Annemarie.

VI. Public Comment: None

VII. Questions/Comments from COD: Randy asked if Commission members could do introductions before the meeting starts each month. Eleanor asked if we could spend up to \$25 on a plaque for the Commission Board. Eleanor made the motion, Annemarie seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting Date- Thursday, October 17th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall: Eleanor made the motion, Randy seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment 7:40pm

Sincerely,
Krystal Lunn
Secretary