

Commission on Disability
Meeting Minutes, October 17th, 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), Krystal Lunn (Secretary), Eleanor Chew, Annemarie Chagnon, Cara Viveiros, Randall Durrigan, Jennifer Cardoza, Martha Reed, Staff Liaison, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)

ZOOM:

Guest: Fairhaven Cable TV

Absent: Ronnie Medina (Vice-Chair), Donna Maino Lavallee,

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 6:02 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes: Eleanor made a motion to approve the September minutes with one amendment, changing DPW to BPW under the communication board section. Randy seconded the motion.

III. Financial Report: Pamela reported that we have approximately \$965.02 left in our budget and \$90 in our gift fund.

IV. Old Business:

a. Neighborhood News Article: Eleanor did not do an article for the month of September. She is working on one now.

b. Accessibility Study: They are working on the draft, and it should be done soon.

c. Accessible Parking Spots: Pam said that she and Annemarie have reached out to Josh from BPW and he is looking over the list we had compiled. Pam will reach out to The Housing Authority to see if they will address there's.

d. Social Media: Annemarie is going to share more information regarding employment for an individual with a disability. Krystal said sharing resources may be helpful to share to help individuals obtaining employment.

e. Fairhaven Cable TV Accessibility: No update at this time.

f. Town Meeting Accessibility & Accommodations: Krystal said they would be continuing to have the Town meeting in the auditorium, as the gym would not be a great fit. They will have closed captions and an extra speaker to help with individuals who are hearing impaired. They are going to have separate sections for individuals who cannot walk very far and will have a separate mic along with a floating mic. They are also in the process of obtaining amplifiers. They will also have available seating for individuals in wheel chairs. Eleanor said they are working on having an interpreter. Pamela brought up setting up time at a Select Board meeting to discuss what we learned at our Massachusetts Office of Disability training regarding accessible meetings.

g. 2024-2025 Focus Projects:

- 1. Jen:** Wanted to work on getting more people to attend the unified sports to cheer the kids on. She asked if anyone from the Commission could attend the upcoming practice for Brayson's Buddies this upcoming Monday 10/21 5-6:30pm.
- 2. Eleanor:** The Commission had the communication board unveiling. The Harvest Feast was a success. They seemed to love the craft and game that was available.
- 3. Krystal:** The Commission has two new student representatives who will hopefully be available for the next meeting. Krystal brought up potentially running a basketball clinic at the Rec Center or a clinic for another sport. She said she would run it free of charge on her part. Martha will set up a meeting with Kelly, Jen, Krystal and herself.
- 4. Pamela:** Brought up having some listening sessions with both Fairhaven Housing and Fairhaven Village. She has sent an email and is waiting to hear back if that is possible.

5. **Randy:** No update at this time.

6. **Annemarie:** Has been contacting local restaurants in Fairhaven to see if anyone has brail or picture menus. Once she finds out who does and does not have them, she wants to send a letter with the information to obtain them if they choose to. Krystal made a motion to have Annemarie contact the restaurant as a Commission member. Eleanor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Annemarie will bring back the information to the Commission.

7. **Cara:** Is still working on figuring out what she wants to work on.

h. **Application for Cultural Council:** The Commission did not have all the information needed to apply for this for this year.

V. New Business:

a. **Decorating Holiday Tree at Town Hall:** Eleanor made the motion that if the Town Hall asks the Commission, the Commission would accept. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Keith said he was actually going to ask us if we wanted to and will let us know the date once he has one.

b. **Inclusive Holiday Event:** Krystal brought up doing an inclusive holiday event. Martha said Krystal should contact Jess from the Belonging Committee to maybe have a booth at the Youth Fair on 12/14/24.

VII. Public Comment: No public comment.

VIII. Questions/Comments from COD: Jen asked the Commission members if anyone would attend the Braysons's Buddies practice this coming Monday.

IX. Next Meeting Date - Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Eleanor brought up changing the meeting because the Town Meeting pre sessions are scheduled on our normal meeting date. Eleanor made a

motion to change our meeting date for November. Randy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment 7:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Lunn

Secretary