



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Agenda: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Sandra Adams, Annmarie McConville, Joseph Petrini, Pat Delaney

Commissioners Absent: Bryan Barry (excused), Theresa Nevin, Susan Adams, Kathleen Sullivan

Others in Attendance: Milton Corey, Interested Citizen
Bob Gualtieri, ADA Coordinator
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Review July 13, 2009 Minutes

Mr. Petrini made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13th meeting. Mr. Balogh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Petrini will bring up later the nominations for the disability friendly business award under Old Business. Dr. Barry emailed him about that issue.

4. ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri's Report

Mr. Gualtieri presented an updated sidewalk report. He said most of the emphasis this season was repairing sidewalks broken due to town trees. They also did major new sidewalks at Meadowbrook III and shared the cost with the Corporation. 16 squares in front of Miller Library and 8-10 squares in front of the senior center will be replaced. Ms. McConville mentioned tripping hazards on the sidewalk coming from the senior housing into Meadowbrook

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Mr. Gualtieri said some of the most frequent calls this past summer deal with housing issues. There is a shortage of ADA accessible rental housing in Hamden. There are also issues with citizens trying to get in to subsidized housing or remain in that housing with evictions looming.

5. Committee Reports

6. Old Business

Mr. Petrini said he would make up a nomination form for a disability friendly business and email it to Commissioners. Once Commissioners agree on it, we can send it out to local newspapers and we can take nominations until November 1st. Bob Gualtieri submitted one to Dr. Barry for Stop & Shop, for their employment of disabled persons, ample parking for the disabled, wide aisles to accommodate wheelchairs and motorized carts, etc. They also have a checkout lane for those with disabilities. There was discussion on this award being presented at the Chamber Choice Awards, which takes place in October. Commissioners decided to select the two Hamden Stop & Shops for this award, for the reasons noted above.

Mr. Petrini said the Film Festival will be held on Friday on 4/9 with a workshop scheduled for Friday, 4/23. Ms. Delaney has contacted Mr. DeSalvo. We are not sending the deposit money in until we have the full amount for the Town's portion of the fee, which is \$800. Ms. McConville said if we don't have the money by January 9th, we should cancel the program. Commissioners agreed.

Ms. McConville reported on a successful barbecue but said perhaps we can have the next one in the barn at Brooksvale and not have to worry about the weather. At least 70 people attended.

Ms. Adams reported that bowling was enjoyable even though not that many people attended. The Commission hopes for a larger attendance at future bowling events.

Mr. Petrini thanked Ms. McConville, Ms. Adams, and the other Commissioners, relatives and friends for volunteering at these events. Ms. McConville suggested a letter to out go to other area towns telling them what we do and letting them know that we are willing to share and expand. Commissioners felt that would be a good way to find out what other Towns do for their disabled citizens.

7. New Business

Tag Sale

There was discussion regarding the possibility of the Commission having a tag sale as a fundraiser. Mr. Petrini thinks we should wait until the spring for the tag sale and try to buy a table at a church tag sale or another tag sale, so we will just have to buy a table and bring our items. The other way would be for the Commission to actually sponsor a tag sale, renting tables, etc. This issue will be brought up again at a later date. Dr. Barry has volunteered his property as a location if the Commission decides to sponsor a tag sale.

Autumn Fling

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Ms. McConville will try to get a date of Friday, November 6th or the 13th if the 6th is not available.

Ms. McConville read a letter from a woman doctor in Pennsylvania, whose daughter lives in New Haven. She will give her information on DMR in Wallingford, and Chapel Haven who has apartments in Westville, and has its own activities.

Mr. Corey asked if has a disability issue would he bring it to this meeting. Mr. Petrini informed him that Bob Gualtieri is the ADA Coordinator for the Town and would be able to refer him to the proper agency to handle his complaint. Mr. Petrini also said this Commission tries to monitor the Town Departments for compliance with the ADA laws. ADA is the American Disabilities Act, a federal law that has regulations pertaining to accommodations for the disabled.

Ms. Delaney reported that Governor Rell just signed a law that schools allow EPI pens to be carried on their person and this also applies to inhalers for kids with asthma.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Petrini made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Delaney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk