



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Minutes: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Bryan Barry, Annmarie McConville, Eileen Carpinella

Absent: Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Aldo Dwyer

Excused: Kathleen Sullivan, Pat Delaney

Others in Attendance: ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand, Linda Macy, Mark Dupont, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Mr. Balogh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Linda Macy of Hart, Inc. and North Haven Recreation spoke about various programs for adults with disabilities provided by the Town of North Haven. They provide programs on Tuesday evenings, and dances once a month. Ms. Macy said their program started for adults with disabilities who still live at home. The programs gave parents a break and their adult children could go out and be with their peers. They then started inviting disabled adults living in group homes. They produce a flyer four times a year with 6-8 activities listed. They charge \$10 per activity, and a \$10 one time non resident fee. An activity fee is charged for each event, which is payment for bowling, movies, bus trips, etc. At one time North Haven had its own bus so they could go out of town for ball games, etc. For a baseball game, they could hire a bus and would charge each person. The Town does a Friday night dance once a month, special needs bowling on Saturdays at Wallingford Bowling, and Bingo at the rec center. They also have hip hop and Special Olympics. Ms. Macy will distribute our flyers to their attendees. The Commission will distribute the North Haven flyers at the May 3rd Spring Fling. North Haven hires three staff (all independent contractors) to help with events. When group home residents attend, group home staff has to be there. Discussion on programs ARC used to have. John Bimonte is the head of the department. Th events are usually well attended. Ms. Macy can be

reached at lindam@hartinc.org. The hope is that Hamden and North Haven will be able to work together on these programs. Ms. Macy said at one of their dances they are having a prom with a king and queen. All of their adult with disability programs are for ages 18 and over. She also mentioned a program for special needs adults that live with other families. John Bimont is in charge of the program for North Haven.

1. Review Minutes of March 11, 2013

A quorum was not available. Minutes will be acted on at the May 13th meeting.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh had nothing to report.

4. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Mr. Marchand mentioned that Connecticut's Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey is a proponent of municipalities working together on programs such as those described above. Ms. McConville mentioned that these programs do not depend on Town funds, which is the way it should be.

Mr. Marchand said we have talked about a couple of issues that came in through the Help Desk last month regarding accessibility/wheelchair access on Mix Avenue and Putnam Avenue. The issue on Mix is the ability to get to a certain area that didn't have a ramp on the sidewalk. This will be addressed in the next few weeks. The Town has responded to the complainant. On Putnam Avenue, someone reported seeing a Davenport/Dunbar resident having to go into the roadway to get to Dixwell Avenue to the shops. A notice of violation was sent to the property owner, who took care of it within a week.

Mr. Marchand is still working on the building by building analysis of what we need to do to be ADA compliant going forward.

All approvals necessary for the all abilities playground at Town Center Park have been granted. The playground should be completed before the summer concerts begin.

Mr. Marchand reminded commissioners that the Hamden Business Expo takes place this Saturday, April 13th at Hamden High School from 11:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m. If no one is available to man a booth this year, Mr. Marchand can have some information available at the Economic Development table. Commissioners discussed what brochures might be available. Mr. Marchand will contact Ms. Vasil in the Mayor's Office

Mr. Dupont is a member of the Connecticut Business Network. They are providing businesses with some seminars, which started in Europe. They advocate hiring handicapped workers, and offering certifications. Mr. Dupont distributed a flyer on Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) which takes place on May 15th and May 23d in Meriden at Rushford Mediquick. Ms. Tobin will scan and email the flyer to the Mayor's Office. Commissioners agreed that this program might be beneficial for first responders.

5. Committee Reports

Ms. McConville announced that the Spring Fling will be held on May 3, 2013 from 7-9 p.m. at the Hamden Middle School. A DJ, snacks and a raffle will be provided. Commissioners will be

emailed their assignments, water, soda, popcorn, pizza and cake. Ms. McConville will get the gift certificates. She reminded commissioners to save their expense slips for reimbursement.

Ms. Carpinella announced that the Sprout Film Festival will be held on May 31st at a time to be announced in Thornton Wilder Hall. Refreshments will be served and will be provided by the commissions involved (Arts, Disabilities). We ask for donations at admission. Mr. Balogh said our Commission had the pleasure of contributing by purchasing a few of the movies and donating them to the Library.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Memorial Day Parade Registration. Mr. Balogh has the form. Mr. Barry will provide his vehicle. Disabled adults from North Haven are invited to participate. A notice will be placed in the local papers. Contact gvasil@hamden.com in the Mayor's Office.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk