



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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### COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**MINUTES: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities** held a Regular Meeting on *Wednesday, November 13, 2013* at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Pat Delaney, Marc Dupont, Annmarie McConville, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Aldo Dwyer, Rachel Skolnic Dobin

Commissioners Excused: Bryan Barry, Eileen Carpinella

Others in Attendance: ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Commissioners introduced themselves to new member Rachel Skolnic Dobin. Ms. Dobin is a Social Worker and is employed as a program director at Jewish Family Services in New Haven. She plans programs for the disabled community.

1. Review Minutes of October 14, 2013

**Ms. Cavanaugh made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2013. Ms. McConville seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

2. Correspondence

Clerk Tobin read a message from Dr. Barry saying that Jo Ann Fabrics will be our disability friendly business of the year. He has ordered the trophy to be presented at the Chamber Choice Awards dinner that will be held at the Holiday Inn in North Haven on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person. He will present the bill for the trophy to Dave DeMartino in the Office of Arts, Recreation and Culture for payment from the Commission's account. The store manager will attend the dinner and accept the award.

Ms. Delaney brought up a letter that was in a packet her daughter received. The letter was from a disabled man telling why it was important to him to work. It was a testimonial to the company that hired him. This is what we are trying to get across to the businesses in our area. Ms. Delaney's daughter is member of Best Buddies at Quinnipiac. Ms. Delaney said Glenwood used to hire handicapped people as did Duchess Diner, and Expect Discounts. Ms. Dobin asked if the commission has ever contacted the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, which is a government run entity. She sends her clients to them for job training and job search assistance.

### 3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh had nothing to report.

### 4. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Happily Mr. Marchand had nothing new to report. At our last meeting we discussed the handicapped parking at Wendy's and Burger King. Wendy's handicapped spaces are in the back of the building, and it is a long walk to the entrance doors. Burger King's handicapped spaces are near the entry doors, but you have to cross the driveway near where cars are entering to get from the parking space to the entry door. The Building Official feels that the way Wendy's is set up is much safer than Burger King. Ms. Delaney said at said at BonTon the ramp is located quite a distance from the door. Mr. Marchand will continue to follow up with Wendy's parent company.

Ms. Delaney brought up the programs that the Town of Hamden provided for its disabled children. There was discussion on the Town's accessibility to buildings including the new police department. Mr. Marchand said the Police Chief is on top of the accessibility issues.

### 5. Committee Reports

Ms. McConville reported on the Halloween costume dance for the over 21 disabled. In spite of the fact that we have said we would not collect money at the door, we collected \$105-\$110. There were about 80 people in attendance. We charge \$5 for residents and \$10 for non residents. We provided pizza, food, drinks, a DJ, etc. Ms. Cavanaugh has been able to get pizzas donated, but in the future, Mr. DeMartino thinks we can get a deal with J Roos. Ms. McConville said she gave Mr. DeMartino a copy of the mailing list, in case something happens to her! Mr. Dupont developed a questionnaire that was distributed at the dance. One suggestion was an email list. He will report on the questionnaire at our next meeting. In response to a question by Ms. Dobin, Ms. McConville said staff and/or parents have to stay, and that the custodians at the Hamden Middle School are terrific. \$10 gift certificates were awarded through raffle tickets. There was discussion on the food that is served.

Ms. Cavanaugh mentioned that she is going to SCSU to visit their transitions program. Mr. Dupont is on the Department of Education Transitions Task Force. He also mentioned that he met the person who is heading the Disabilities Commission in New Haven, and he will establish a contact.

Commissioners discussed making up a booklet that includes all of the programs available locally for the disabled, kind of a go to booklet for parents. Ms. McConville and Ms. Delaney both told of moving to Hamden, and having no idea what programs were offered for their children. We could reestablish ourselves at the Business Expo in April and have the booklet as a handout.

### 6. Old Business

### 7. New Business

**Ms. Delaney made a motion to approve the 2014 meeting calendar. Ms. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

### 8. Adjournment

**Ms. Cavanaugh made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dupont seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk