



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, OCTOBER 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Bryan Barry, Eileen Carpinella, Annmarie McConville, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Mark Dupont, Jon Dwyer, Chris Balogh, Pat Delaney

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

Mr. Balogh called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Review Minutes of September 9, 2013

Ms. Carpinella made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting. Ms. Delaney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

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 had no complaints to report. Mr. Marchand attended the 20th anniversary meeting of the ADAC today at AquaTurf, which was accessible. Ted Kennedy Jr. was the keynote speaker. It was a good meeting, and they talked a lot about how CT lags behind most states in ADA compliance. All Towns are supposed to have a plan and show results going forward. Many towns in Connecticut do not have an ADA Coordinator or a plan. Ms. Delaney said CT used to be at the forefront for the disabled back when her daughter was born. It was noted that there are services in Connecticut, but because ADAC is a non profit, there is no enforcement. Ms. Delaney said Hamden has fewer services now than we had 30 years ago when she moved here. They had Camp Rainbow back then and the town paid their coordinator for Special Olympics. Ms. McConville said the culturally deprived have been put in the category of special needs. They said Governor Mallow has

\$4 million in the budget for upgrading the state buildings to make long overdue accommodations. This has not happened since the 70's. They had a seminar with people from all over the state to discuss getting a system in place for all towns to get the coordinator and the plan going forward.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked Mr. Marchand about Wendy's on Dixwell Avenue. The handicapped parking is in the back of the building. The apron to the sidewalk is around the back. You have to go all the way to the front of the building to get to the door. She asked Mr. Marchand to check the rules. Ms. Delaney said the ramp is not anywhere near the door to Bon Ton – it is probably halfway between Bon Ton and JoAnn Fabric. Mr. Marchand will check that also.

5. Committee Reports

Ms. McConville said a week ago when she spoke to Mr. DeMartino we only had 20 people registered for the Autumn Fling. The notice is in today's paper, and the final count is due on October 22nd. Mr. DuPont put together a questionnaire to hand out at the dance asking about how they heard about the dance, suggestions for future events, and what events have you attended in the past that you would recommend. Mr. DuPont will print questionnaires and if he can't get to it because of the pending birth of his first grandchild, Ms. Carpinella. Commissioners know what their jobs are. This is a costume event. Raffle prizes will be given out, but there will no prizes for costumes. The dance will take place at the Hamden Middle School on Friday, October 25th from 7-9 p.m.

Ms. Delaney mentioned that October 26th is the regional qualifying bowling tournament in Milford.

Ms. McConville and Ms. Delaney brought up a “prom” for the disabled population that is being held on November 1st by a frat at Southern Connecticut State University in their cafeteria. The cost is \$10.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked if we sent a notice about the Autumn Fling to the Hamden Transitions Academy. She will go there tomorrow with flyers and will ask for the mailing list. Ms. McConville and Ms. Cavanaugh will exchange information.

Ms. Cavanaugh's friend at Quinnipiac can get basketball tickets for both men's and women's games. She will bring the schedule to the next meeting.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Dr. Barry said that the Chamber Choice Awards will be held on November 19th. As a commission we should make a decision on a disability friendly business, hopefully by the end of the month. Ms. Cavanaugh said Marshall's at the Plaza and JoAnn's at the Mart are both disability friendly. They have Hamden Transitions send their job training candidates to their stores, with their job coaches. Ms. Delaney asked if Dr. Barry could put an email out to the Chamber members asking if they are or if they know of any disability friendly businesses that we could consider. This year's event will be held at the North Haven Holiday Inn at 6:00 p.m. on 11/19/13. The cost is \$70 per person.

Ms. Delaney made a motion that the Commission donate \$200 to the Hamden Special Olympics. Ms. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ms. Delaney will contact Dave DeMartino to request a check.

Mr. Marchand encouraged everyone to attend the Farmer's Market on Friday, October 18th. The Farmer's Market will be followed by the first annual Food Truck Festival.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Barry made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Delaney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk