



# 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 February 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Excused: Marc Dupont

**1. Review Minutes of January 13, 2014**

**Ms. Carpinella made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting. Dr. Barry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**2. Correspondence**

Ms. Balogh said he received the form for the Memorial Day Parade registration from Gail Vasil in the Mayor's Office. Dr. Barry suggested we invite the groups we notify about the dances to march with the commission. Ms. McConville will send the information out with the mailing for the Spring Fling, on a separate sheet. The name, phone number/email and contact for marching orders will be requested. Ms. Cavanaugh will call Ms. White from the BOE's Hamden Transitions Academy which works with 21-22 year old physically mobile students. This invitation will be for Hamden residents only. Ms. Cavanaugh suggested everyone be requested to wear a particular color tee shirt. Dr. Barry will drive his car and the banner will be used. Participants will be given small flags to carry.

**3. Chairman's Report**

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

Mr. Marchand reported that there have been no new complaints. The government center handicapped parking issues will be addressed once it is warm enough to paint the pavement.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked about B&D deli's lack of accessibility. Mr. Marchand said they didn't require a permit for their renovations, and therefore did not have to change the existing exterior conditions

(high curb). Ms. Cavanaugh doesn't understand why existing buildings do not have to comply. Mr. Marchand advised that there are many existing buildings built before the ADA laws went into effect that are not compliant. He mentioned Johnson's Bowling. Mr. Marchand did the research and found that B&D did not need a permit for the renovations. Ms. Cavanaugh asked Mr. Marchand to bring her concern to B&D's attention.

## 5. Committee Reports

Ms. McConville will get in touch with Dave DeMartino to get a date for the Spring Fling. Mr. Dwyer said he didn't see a photo from the last dance in the paper. Ms. McConville thinks she sent one in, but will check.

Dr. Barry attended the Chamber Choice Awards dinner and announced the Disability Friendly Business Award given to JoAnn Fabrics. He also spoke about the Commission. The representative from JoAnn Fabrics was not present at the event, so he delivered the trophy to the store the following week.

Dr. Barry announced that the Business Expo will be held on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 4:30 at a new venue, the CFC Arena (indoor soccer arena) on Sherman Avenue. We will share table space with the Economic Development Commission. There are some new things this year which you can view on the Hamden Chamber web site. Mr. Balogh suggested we invite Nancy Dudcik of the Chamber to one of our meetings. Perhaps she can help the Commission to take advantage of its Chamber membership. We will hand out brochures and bookmarks.

Ms. Delaney thinks we should give some of our brochures to the real estate agents in town to give to new residents with special needs kids. Mr. Balogh said he spoke to a couple of new residents at last year's Business Expo. If the kids are school, the school would be the family's first contact, but if they are older, it would be helpful to let them know what is available for them. Ms. Dobin is concerned about the special needs population once they are out of school. Mr. Dwyer said he was able to go to work when he was 21.

Ms. Delaney had a letter from Misha Campbell of Special Olympics thanking the Commission for its donation. It will be used to purchase helmets and snowshoes for the winter games. Special Olympics is going through hard times looking for funding. Ms. McConville asked if we could get a list of their actual needs and perhaps we could go through the Chamber and see what businesses might be able to participate. We would also have to figure out how the businesses would be acknowledged. Ms. Delaney asked if the Probus Club is a member of the chamber. She said two or three years ago they outfitted the tennis team for the state games. Dr. Barry mentioned the Chamber's email blast and monthly newsletter, plus Business After Hours as good sources of publicity. This year the Chamber has expanded to the Regional Chamber of Commerce. They are trying to increase their focus and their scope. Ms. Delaney mentioned Modell's as a company who hires special needs residents.

Ms. Delaney had coupon books for Community Days at Bon Ton at a cost of \$5. They can be used February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Funds are used to provide buses for the Winter Games.

## 6. Old Business

## 7. New Business

Ms. Carpinella said that on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m. the University of St. Joseph in Hartford, will host an Inspire Forum, a training program regarding arts opportunities throughout the state.

Arts for Learning is working with New Haven and the Shoreline on a Call for Arts by adults with mental illness. The art will be shown on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Madison.

Regarding the Spring Fling, Ms. McConville said Dave DeMartino is going to try to get a deal from J Roo's for pizza and have it delivered. Commissioners felt we should contact a Hamden business. Ms. Cavanaugh will approach Giovanni's. The event will be held on a Friday evening at the end of March, April, or the first Friday in May. We will avoid Good Friday and any dates that North Haven has a program planned for the over 21 disabled population.

Dr. Barry will contact a DJ that he knows. We have had some trouble with the DJ at the last couple of events.

**8. Adjourment**

**Ms. Carpinella made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Delaney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous sin favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk