



# 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 will hold a Regular Meeting on **September 8, 2014** at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues will be discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Eileen Carpinella, Marc Dupont, Pat Delaney, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Dwyer,

Commissioners Absent: Annmarie McConville(excused), Rachel Dobin, Bryan Barry

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

1. Review Minutes of July 14, 2014

**Ms. Delaney made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh 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. He asked for a volunteer to act as treasurer and keep track of the funds raised at the dances and the expenses incurred. Ms. Delaney volunteered. Mr. Marchand will look into the account numbers.

At a previous meeting there was discussion on getting a group to attend a Quinnipiac hockey game. Ms. Cavanaugh wondered if tickets to sporting events at Quinnipiac should be restricted to Hamden residents. Ms. Carpinella said usually a block of tickets is given to a group and are on a first come first served basis.

Ms. Cavanaugh wondered if perhaps instead of doing a halloween dance every year, perhaps we could have a holiday dance. Ms. Delaney mentioned an annual formal for the disabled population held at SCSU. Information can be found on the web site SOCT.com.

Ms. Delaney had a recreation newsletter from southern CT regional DDS listing all of the disabled recreation programs in southern CT and wondered if we wanted our dance put in it. Commissioners felt our dance might grow out of hand and since our attendance was so good, we don't have to list it in this program. Milford has many programs for disabled of all ages as do several other communities listed in the newsletter.

4. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Mr. Marchand has nothing new to report. The Town has addressed the issues of the walkway from Seramonte to Broadmoor, and it is being made ADA Compliant.

Ms. Cavanaugh mentioned that the Dunkin Donuts on Whitney Avenue has painted a crosswalk from their entrance to the parking. The handicapped parking is a good distance away. She ran into the regional manager and pointed out that the handicapped parking was not really accessible, and there was no curb cut. Ms. Cavanaugh will keep her eye on it and will report next month. It is the same set up as Wendy's. Burger King also has the same set up but has the curb cut near the door. Ms. Cavanaugh felt it might be a good idea to contact Dunkin's corporate office.

Mr. Marchand said the ADA act has certain parameters. Normally the requirement would be the closest proximity, but there are exceptions due to safety concerns. This is a federal mandate. Ms. Carpinella said the Act is online. It is a PDF and you can page through to find what you need. Mr. Marchand said there is also the issue of when it was built and when the law was put in place. Ms. Cavanaugh asked if the handicap signs and push buttons to open the doors have been installed at the Old Town Hall. Mr. Marchand will look into that.

5. Committee Reports

6. Old Business

Nominations for disability friendly business – no one had any suggestions for this year's award. Ms. Cavanaugh wondered if we could acknowledge Eli's because they always donate pizza's for our dances. They also donated to the film festival. Ms. Carpinella said they are very generous. Dr. Barry was going to get a nomination form from the Chamber.

Discussion on Facebook page – Mr. Dupont hopes to get together with Dr. Barry to get started on the Facebook page. There was discussion on listing accessible business, but commissioners felt that could result in liability. We could provide a forum to discuss the accessibility of certain places.

7. New Business

Brooksvale Fall festival – There was discussion on having a table at this event, but commissioners were not available. There was discussion on an All Abilities Day at Brooksvale several years ago, which was very well received.

Mr. Marchand will speak to Nancy Dudcik of the Chamber about attending one of our commission meetings, to familiarize her with the workings of the commission. Mr. Marchand will see her at the Business After Hours tomorrow evening at Hindinger Farm. The event takes place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Representatives of the restaurants participating in Restaurant Week in Hamden will be there with food samples. Commissioners are members if they wish to attend and the cost is \$10.

There was discussion on the Habitat House Maselli Farm.

8. Adjournment

**Ms. Delaney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dupont seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.**

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

