

Harvard Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2020

Inaugural Meeting of Commission on Disabilities

Called to order on July 31, 2020 at 11:03 by Davida Bagatelle via Zoom

Present: Davida Bagatelle,Carolynn Luescher, Toni Spacciapoli

Absent: Laura Bridges, Brian Wickman

Agenda

- Self Introductions
- Recognition of ADA 30th Anniversary
- Review of Mission, Tasks as set forth by SelectBoard and First steps
- Reporting out on any individual learning and research by members
- Determine CoD's meeting schedule
- Member roles- elections for Chair, CoChair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Adjourn

Self Introductions

- Carolynn - Prior to moving to Harvard, Carolynn was a member of a Utility Task Force in the Town of Lunenburg. She has worked in the technology and finance business sectors. Carolynn's motivation in seeking this appointment is her desire to give back to the community.
- Davida - She has lived in Harvard for 20+ years. Davida has worked in the special education field since 1974. She has always been engaged in promoting models of inclusivity and awareness in school districts. Appointment to this commission is another way she is able to carry out her beliefs around inclusivity and work to benefit others.
- Toni - She has lived in Harvard for 20+ years. This is her first public office. Toni has been working as a school psychologist for 22 years. She also held positions in Human Resources, including Corporate Manager of EEO and Affirmative Action. Like Davida, she has enjoyed helping individuals and organizations in promoting inclusivity and accessibility.

Recognition of ADA 30th Anniversary

- Davida thanked Laura Bridges for her postings on Nextdoor Harvard and informing the community about this milestone.

Review Mission

- Davida shared the Town's statement of the Commission's mission and tasks.
- Discussions related to the various responsibilities set forth by the statement.
 - Carolynn emphasized the importance of researching and identifying diverse ways for accessing information on the town website.

- Toni suggested that each member rank order the top 5 tasks in an effort to establish a set of priorities for the Commission in the next year.
- Members agreed that it was important to determine the status of identified areas of non-compliance reported in the ADA Compliance and Transition Plan (2016) shared by Toni.
- Davida brainstormed ways to help establish Commission bylaws and processes. Suggested sending out a template before the next meeting to begin the drafting process.
- Carolyn asked which town employees are ADA coordinators. Davida identified them as Marie Harrington (School) and Marie Sobalvarro (Town)
- Davida suggested that the Commission invite Jeff Dougan from the Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities to help the members gain better understanding of the Commission's role and to establish bylaws. She also suggested inviting Stu Skalar, our liaison from the Board of Selectmen.
- Carolyn would like to have all members be available for Jeff Dougan's visit.

Reporting out on any individual learning and research by members

- Davida shared information gathered from her conversation with Jeff Dougan
- Toni shared information received from Tim Bragan and Marie Sobalvarro regarding impetus for creating a Commission on Disabilities for the Town of Harvard

Determine CoD's meeting schedule

- Tentatively set for the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am

Member roles- elections for Chair, CoChair, Secretary, Treasurer

- Suspended until all members are present
- Discussion of areas of interest
 - Carolyn - interested in funding, grant application

Action Items:

- Group tasks
 - Review Town of Harvard ADA Compliance and Transition Plan
 - Review 10 goals and bylaw template recommended by Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities (to be forwarded by Davida)
 - Review Municipal ADA Coordinator Resources/ Title II Action Guide (www.adaactionguide.org)
 - Formulate questions to present to Jeff Dougan and submit to Davida by August 12, 2020
- Davida will:
 - Research details related to establishing a google account to share and develop documents, email, and disseminate documents and information to residents.
 - Invite Jeff Dougan to next meeting
 - Follow up with Stu Sklar on a future date (potentially Sept)

- Next meeting set for Aug 20 at 10am

Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm, July 31, 2020