

**Harvard Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes 12/21/22**

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 853 7274 6630

Passcode: 065320

Called to Order at 4:03pm by Davida Bagatelle

Present: Davida Bagatelle, Toni Spacciapoli

Approval of October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- **Update progress on new ADA Transition and Self-evaluation Plan**
 - The Center for Living and Working have completed visits. They are in the process of writing the ADA Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation report. They will share the report in January. A meeting will be scheduled to present to the public in January upon receipt of the final report. Linda Dwight, Superintendent of Schools, has asked the Commission to share the report with her.
 - Consultant will share a resource page for towns regarding the creation of trails and parks.
- **Recap of the Disability Awareness Forum**
 - The forum on Emergency Preparedness and Disability Awareness was held November 9. The panel included Police Chief Babu, Debbie Thonmpson from Council on Aging; Jason Cotting, Director of Ambulance Services; Pat Natoli, representing the Fire Department; and Jenna Montgomery from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.
 - The Forum was informative. Important take-aways included a description of on-going collaboration among the various first responders in town along with Council on Aging and an inventory of forms, provided to residents, to inform the town first responders of individuals/family members with disabilities. Discussion of the proactive approach being undertaken by the Police Department to visit residents with special needs in the home.
 - Davida Bagatelle recommended that the Police Department create one folder on the site that contains all emergency forms.

New Business

- **Town-wide survey on accessibility and inclusion**
 - The Commission has developed a town-wide survey to measure the degree of resident perception/satisfaction with building accessibility and inclusion in Harvard. The survey began early December and will extend till the beginning of January. People are encouraged to visit the site and complete the survey. We hope to factor the results into the discussion that will follow the publication of the ADA Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation.
 - Briefly discussed the results received as of this meeting.
 - Davida Bagatelle will contact The Center for Living and Working regarding incorporation of the results into the final report.
 - The Commission approached the Council on Aging and SEPAC to encourage their members to complete the survey.

- Will ask Charles Oliver if he can research accessibility to audio equipment availability to public for town meetings.
- **Commissions on Disabilities Advisory group**
 - Davida Bagatelle and Toni Spacciapoli attended a meeting in December of the Commissions on Disability Advisory (CODA), a monthly support group for ADA coordinators and members of Commissions on Disabilities sponsored by a non-profit organization. Accessing public transportation was an important item discussed.
 - Attending this meeting reinforced the need to have town residents with a disability serve on our Commission. Ensuing discussion emphasized approaching the Select Board to think about appointing members. We will ask Charles Oliver to raise this issue with the Select Board. Toni Spacciapoli will approach Debbie Thompson for recruiting members to the Commission. There may be tax credits available to Seniors for participation on the Commission.
 - We will alternate attendance to the monthly meetings. Toni Spacciapoli will attend the January 2023 meeting. We will request that an item regarding a discussion about town website accessibility features/applications and ZOOM closed caption recordings be added to CODA agenda for next month.
- **Inquiries to the Commission on Disabilities** - no inquiries this month.
- **Recent webinars and training**
 - Massachusetts Commission on Disability summit occurred October.
 - Keynote speaker was Lainey Feingold, ADA attorney from San Francisco, provides information on her website with recent changes in ADA law and court rulings. The site is: lfelegal.com/category/accessibility
 - Takeaways from summit: Davida concerned that Zoom does not capture close captioned in the recordings; video games contain many features regarding accessibility; Boston hospitals' initiatives for accommodations for vision and hearing impaired patients.
 - SEPAC meeting attended by Davida Bagatelle. The organization has been sharing information about family friendly and accessible programs and events. Tend to be recommendations outside of Harvard but in neighboring towns.

Next Meeting Date: January 18, 2023 at 4:00pm

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn at 4:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Spacciapoli, Commission Secretary