

Provincetown Disability Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
May 12, 2015
Meeting in the Judge Welsh Hearing Room at Town Hall

Meeting Started at: 11AM

Members Present: Herbert Hintze, Michelle DeMarco, Nancy Swanson,
Michelle Foley, Gloria McPherson & Linda Loren

Members Absent: Vernon Porter - excused

Guests: None

Welcome and Open Comments:

Swany – Will be getting a Service Dog. Lives at Maushop and there has been some resistance to her having the dog. Dog will have all papers etc. that it is a Service Dog and management should not be able to refuse. Advised to call State Disability Office if issues continue.

Public Statements: None

New Business:

Anne Howard – postponed meeting with us until June.

Will discuss – onsite checklist survey

- Braille signage – Gloria will investigate which company is responsible for incorrect signage.

Ongoing Issues:

Disability Day – May 16 at the “Firehouse” – 10AM – 4PM

PBG has an event planned that day and will share the space. Should give us more traffic and visibility.

Michelle DeMarco – Voiced disappointment that we are not doing Friday evening as well. Herbie explained that this was discussed at the April meeting and due to lack of coverage we voted to do only one day – Saturday.

David Gardner – making signage for the day. He has been very helpful and assisted with getting signs and the donation jar.

Herbie – will bring Mobi chair, wheelchairs and canes, and etc. to the “Firehouse”.
 Extra pamphlets are needed and are in the Disability file cabinet at the COA.
 News Media, Police, Selectmen have been invited.
 Herbie, Vern, Gloria and Swany will assist with Saturday. Other members will be out of town.

Beach Mats – Vern needed three bids for the beach mats and was able to find the companies. Mobi Mats are competitively priced and as we all agreed at the previous meeting, are the best quality to withstand use on our beach. Old mats were not able to withstand the elements and use.

Old Mats – will discuss at future meeting where we can use these mates such as the Winthrop Cemetery, and other Conservation areas and beaches.

Michelle DeMarco requested that we decide on a policy regarding decisions about the placement of the mats. Issue was discussed but Herbie emphasized that a policy was not needed since all decisions will be made by a vote of the Commission members.

Swany made a Motion which was seconded by Michelle Foley that we create a 5 year Strategic Plan. Vote – 6-0 to create this 5 year plan.

No Mats on Ryder Street until the new Mats are placed. Mat delivery not set yet but we hope they will be delivered by Memorial Day.

Michelle DeMarco – Presented the results of the survey that had been mailed to all residents.

725 – returned (total # mailed not known at this time)

420 – stated no disability

305 – stated that there was someone with a disability in the household

- 69 - Difficulty ambulating streets and sidewalk
- 43 - Mental Health Issues
- 93 - Taking Life Saving Medications
- 45 - Hidden Disability (Insulin Pump, Pacemaker, Oxygen –Joint replacements)
- 50 - Low light issues
- 20 - Difficulty with access to Town Hall for meetings and voting
- 123 - Chronic Illness
- 43 - Hearing and Sight enhancing needs
- 81 - Small print issues – Town Documents
- 33 - Street pavement issues

- 17 - Difficulty reading signs in town
- 23 - Need Disability parking
- 37 - Use a walker
- 71 - Use a cane
- 16 - Use a wheelchair
- 13 - Use a scooter/electric wheelchair

Discussion by commission members about issues that persist and make it difficult for town members. Some curbs on Commercial Street are still too high and curb edges are not rounded. Sound system at Town Hall is difficult for anyone with a hearing impairment. Town and Businesses are not keeping up with the needs of our citizens and visitors.

Michelle DeMarco announced that she will be meeting with Chris Hottle to discuss the survey. Herbie asked that minutes be taken and presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

Gloria presented an issue that occurred during the Snow storms this year. Individuals in wheelchairs were not able to be transported to the shelter. Need vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs and better snow removal to get to the individual houses.

Swany suggested that the results of the Survey be presented to the Selectmen. Continued discussion on the need for a Strategic plan and the need to meet with other agencies regarding the survey. We discussed when to meet and agreed that we would have better attendance if the meeting was in the Fall.

Chris Hottle will be asked to attend the June meeting to discuss with us the September meeting and other department attendance.

Office Space – Accessible Provincetown will be asking an engineer to look at other places for an office. Office space to be discussed further at next meeting.

Other Business: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of April 14, 2015 made by Swany and seconded by Michelle Foley. Vote 6 – 0 to approve minutes

Next Meeting Scheduled for: June 9, 2015 @ 11AM

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:15PM Motion to adjourn made by Herbie and seconded by Michelle Foley.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by.
Linda Loren