

Provincetown Disability Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 9, 2015  
Meeting in the Caucus Hall at Town Hall

Meeting Started at: 11AM

Members Present: Vernon Porter, Nancy Swanson, Herb Hintze, , Gloria McPherson  
& Linda Loren

Members Absent: Michelle DeMarco - excused, Michelle Foley - excused

Guests: Sharon Crooker – Rep. for Mobi Mats, Chris Hottle - COA

**Welcome and Open Comments:**

Swany – she had been approached by someone and was asked if Mental Illness is a disability. Yes it is as is any disease if it interferes with everyday life.

Swany is proceeding with the adoption of a Service Dog.

Vernon – introduced Sharon Crooker

Linda – took a trip on the Dolphin Fleet with a friend who uses a walker. The staff was extremely attentive and very helpful to her friend.

**New Business:**

Office Space : Vernon – suggested we look into a space downtown with Wide doors and privacy. Accessible Provincetown will help with whatever is necessary to get an appropriate office.

Swany – stated that having space near where the mats are would be difficult.

Linda – Suggested that we demonstrate the need for an office. Need to have immediate space on the town website and phone and email access that can help demonstrate activity and a need for an office.

Vernon – 65% of Provincetown residents are Senior Citizens. And there is always someone asking about access around town.

Swany – suggested getting a cell phone which would give the public more access to the commission.

Gloria – concerned about staffing an office. Vernon stated that he would be able to get many volunteers. Chris – suggested that it become part of the Senior Tax Volunteer program.

Survey Checklist – No response at this time from Anne Howard.

ADA Conference – in Hyannis. Motion by Swany & seconded by Linda to authorize payment for conference and overnight stay for Vernon to attend. VOTE – 5 – 0 to approve.

Mobi Mats – placed on the beach this AM by the DPW. The DPW workers raved about the quality of the mats. Sharon Crooker stated that we were able to get the latest mats at a lower price. These mats have a reflective stripe and can be seen at night. Towanda was at the placement of the mats and was able to ride down and turn on all the mats. Mats also placed in front of the two beach benches and will be placed near Surfside and on the Johnson Street beach.

Old Mats – need to speak to other commissions and ask about access issues to other areas in town. Chris Hottle will ask clients at the COA about access issues.

Collection Box Locations: Need to get keys from Michelle D. Herbie asked that we let him know the location of any boxes that we find. There are 16 boxes and we don't know where they are. Money has been received from Donations at the Chamber and on Disability Awareness day and deposited into the gift fund.

SMILE Donation – SMILE gave us the Mobi Chairs and we needed to match the donation and give back to SMILE. Sharon stated that SMILE has a website with lists of items that they need. We need to look at website and offer a donation. Motion made by Herbie and seconded by Linda to give a donation of \$1,000.00 to SMILE. VOTE 5- 0 to give donation.

Chris Hottle introduced – Dir. Of the COA

We welcomed her to the meeting. Talked about the ability of the Dis. Com. To assist disabled citizens with Disability needs. This can be offered with the help of Accessible Provincetown, We can help with physical modifications to their living space,

wheelchair, etc. Also informed Chris that we have an electric wheelchair which can be borrowed by any citizen.

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New Trolley has a wheelchair lift.

### **Ongoing Issues:**

Disability Day – Herbie stated that there was lots of traffic. He met the ex state Rep for Disability who is now working for the Federal Gov. Donations for the day were \$250.00. The space was shared with the PBG and it worked out well and they helped each other.

Booklets – need to be updated and printed again. Accessible Provincetown will assist. The COA will have a page to advertise their services.

Old Mobi Mats – as previously stated – we need to speak to the other commissions especially the Conservation Commission

Survey – no update at this time

### **Other Business:**

Herbie – spoke to us about an issue at the Bay State Ferry – Ferry was cancelled due to Bad weather – they called or emailed everyone who had purchased a ticket. All those with tickets were given a ride to Boston on a bus. One of the passengers was a man in a motorized wheelchair and the bus was not accessible. Ferry Company was not able to find a solution. Eventually the man was help onto the bus. Procedure for Ferry cancellations needs to be evaluated to identify those with special needs.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting were approved 5 – 0 with no changes. Vernon made the motion and Swany seconded.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for:** August 11, 2015 @ 11AM (No meeting for July)

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:05PM Vern motioned and Linda Seconded – Vote 5-0

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by.  
Linda Loren