

Provincetown Disability Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
November 10, 2015
Meeting in the Caucus Hall at Town Hall

Meeting Started at: 12PM

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

Members Absent: Michelle DeMarco - excused

Guests: None

Welcome and Open Comments:

Herbie opened meeting and welcomed all.

Public Statements: None

New Business:

Service Dog issue at Stop & Shop – Provincetown citizen was shopping at Stop & Shop with her Service Dog. Another shopper made a complaint about a dog in the store and dog owner was contacted and interviewed by the Board of Health. Disability Commission was not contacted. DC will contact Stop & Shop about signage which will alert shoppers that Service Dogs may be in store. Need to speak with Board of Health about presenting these issues to us. Per Jeff Dugan at the State Dis. Comm. – individuals with Service Dogs do not need to carry papers or anything else identifying the service animal. If asked about the status of the animal. They only need to state that it is a service animal. They do not need to state what disability the animal assists them with. They only need to state that the animal assists them with their disability. More information needs to be distributed to businesses about Service Animals.

Paving – Phase 3 paving on West End of Commercial Street. Town will again use Bricks for the sidewalk. We will again voice our objections about the use of these bricks.
Invite the DPW Director to attend meeting for further discussion.

Conwell St. will get sidewalks and the discussion is for the use of cement.

Brewster St. – Upcoming Traffic Hearing - 1 handicap parking space had been placed there for use by disabled resident. Resident no longer living there and abutter wants this changed to regular parking space. Herbie and Vernon will attend Traffic Hearing and speak on this matter.

Meeting with Town Manager – Herbie has met with Town Manager and found him very supportive of Disability Commission have an office. Office space should be near downtown area and large enough for storage of equipment. Accessible Provincetown is supportive financially for the Commission to rent the first shed on the pier. This can be used as office and storage space as well as informational. Disabled individuals will help to man the shed. Several artists have offered to help and also sell their art work and crafts and give a percentage to DC.

Open Meeting with Accessible Provincetown – used to notify others about work of the Disability Commission and Accessible Provincetown.

Vernon – Looking into grant from State to have a Disability Awareness Event similar to what the Truro Disability Commission had recently. Grants are usually around \$1000.00 to cover ads, printed materials, food, etc. He should hear something soon as they only give so many grants each year.

Vernon – Awhile back it was suggested that the Disability Commission be more visible in the future. Vernon has looked into this and suggested that we order posters and a table cover that displays the town logo and the Disability Commission. Also pens and other items to advertise the Commission. Vernon passed around a catalog showing the different items. Motion made by Swany and seconded by Michelle Foley to order items with a spending limit of \$1,200.00. Vote 6-0 to approve.

Ongoing Issues:

Electric Wheelchairs – second chair is being donated and possible a third one in the next few weeks. If anyone knows of someone who needs an electric chair have them contact Herbie or Vernon. If loaned out – we will need to have a release in order to allow the use of these chairs. Chairs need to be refurbished. Fold up ramp will also be donated. Liability issues to be referred to Town Council

Wheelchair “Rentals” – Herbie reported that the wheelchairs were lent out 153 times this year, twice last year. He also suggested that a wheelchair be stored near the Ferry due to the numerous requests.

Mobi Chairs – only used twice this year. Need to do more advertising.

Mission Statement needs to be updated and 5 year plan to be finalized. Gloria suggested that we investigate whether the Mission Statement is based on State plan and whether it can be changed.

Budgets - Vern discussed budget issues with payments coming from the wrong account. Money for the Mobi mats and the Bench Plaque were taken from Town Budget which puts us at a negative balance. Vernon is in discussion with Connie regarding the balance of each budget.

P 3

Money collected from the boxes was minimal. Did receive \$200.00 for Vernon's Notary services which brings the amount for this year to \$932.25 that has been added to our Gift Fund. Bringing the total up to \$22,932.25. Our yearly town budget remains at \$5000.00 – and now has a balance of \$2,172.24. Balance of Town Meeting article is \$0. All has been spent for the new mats, etc. The \$1000.00 approved several months ago for SMILE in appreciation of their donations of two Mobi-Chairs at a cost of \$2500.00 each has still not been processed. Vernon will follow-up on this.

Other Business:

Linda stated that she has been in contact with VNA physical therapist who works in Provincetown. Apparently several disabled individuals in town could benefit from having walkers and others devices available. Will give therapist Hebie's number and hopefully she can attend a future meeting. She is apparently borrowing equipment from the COA but it is not always in working condition or not what the client needs. Need to work with COA about equipment availability.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of last meeting not available at this time

Next Meeting Scheduled for: December 8, 2015 @ 12PM

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:10PM Motion by Michelle F. and seconded by Swany to adjourn.
Vote 6-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by.
Linda Loren