

**TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**CHAIRPERSON: TARA BRONNER**  
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**ADA COORDINATOR: LESLIE WARD**  
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**Ludlow Commission on Disability**

Minutes of meeting held on  
September 28, 2023

**Present:**

Tara Bronner, Chairperson  
Julie DiCesare, Treasurer  
Harry Mills, Member  
Diane Shea Walton, Member  
Christopher Harkins, Member

**Absent:**

Beverly Barry, Vice Chairperson  
Joanne Odatto-Staeb, Secretary  
Jennifer Wright, Member

**Present:**

Beverly Dudley, Guest  
2 Additional Guests

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2023 NOV 28 PM 1:00

- I. **Called to Order:** 6:05 P.M. Role Call and Signature Attendance Sheet shared
- II. **Review and Accept Minutes:** Dian Walton motioned to accept, Harry Mills seconded, ~~3-0~~ in favor.
- III. **Budget/Expense Sheet:**
  - a. Discussed budget, there are some expenses that need to be submitted soon by Joanne Diane and Jenny.
- IV. **Upcoming Trainings/Increasing Town Awareness of Commission: (the goal is to be present at least 1 event quarterly)**
  - a. **Library Stakeholders meeting Outreach:**
    - i. Tara is going to ask Library Rep./children's librarian (July) to attend either Oct or Nov commission meeting.
  - b. **Lunch and Learn Senior Center:** No discussion currently.
  - c. **Park and Recreation outreach:**
    - i. Diane is meeting with Parks & Rec to get recommendations for equipment purchase based upon their recommendation for needed equipment.
  - d. **Community Outreach:**
    - i. Public Health nurse wants to partner with the Commission.
    - ii. Possible opportunities for Disability Commission: Presence at Hope Walk (Riverwalk)
    - iii. Color Ludlow event went well, Jenny & Diane attended and represented Disability Commission, there were games/bracelets that were made by Jenny's daughter that they handed out.
  - e. **Ludlow Cultural Council outreach:**
    - i. Tara advised there's a total of \$212.00 to be donated to the Exit 7 Theatre for the Deaf Interpreter Fund that was raised by the Disability Commission.
    - ii. Tara attended the most recent Ludlow Cultural Council Commission meeting.
    - iii. Tara is applying for a grant through the Ludlow Cultural Counsel to be able to fund books on tape, braille books, sensory books for the benefit of the town library. Tara Bronner 1<sup>st</sup> motion to access grant funds from the Cultural Council,

Diane Walton 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. 5-0 in favor. Tara will also discuss promotion of artists with disabilities and an upcoming art show.

**f. Celebrate Ludlow 250<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration:**

- i. 10/14 is Celebrate Ludlow event, Tara is going to send around a sign-up document for volunteers to attend to represent the Disability Commission. There is a designated spot for us and will sell water as fundraiser. Harry said he would pick up water at Costco for this.

**g. CAMP Training:** CAMP training \$ - Tara waiting to hear back from MOD

- h. Dine-Out Fundraising Events:** Tara will reach out to Tony T. from Villa Rose about setting up for fund raising to support disability awareness and access to local groups or agencies.

i.

**V. Town Physical Access**

**a. Accessible handicap parking:**

- i. Harry provided parking update re: Mapletree parking lot, he's still trying to reach the owner to discuss need for additional handicap spots.
- ii. CVS is still an issue, but we will inform Leslie Ward again when she attends a meeting for Disability Commission. An email was sent to her months ago documenting the issue but no changes at CVS.

**VI. Correspondence/Old Business New Business**

**a. Correspondence:** No new correspondence

- i. Home Modification Program: Julie to ask PVPC if anyone from Ludlow has applied for Home Modification program. Julie will reach out for more information.
- ii. Leslie Ward – new ADA coordinator was asked to attend today's meeting; however, she did not attend. It was agreed that Tara would solicit questions from everyone in this commission for Leslie Ward in advance of the next meeting she can attend.

- b. Commission Positions/Members:** Beverly Dudley submitted her request to become a Commission member. Tara is waiting to hear of her acceptance by the Selectman. Two other guests attended the meeting expressing an interest. The Commission can have many members but is held to only nine voting members.

**c. New Business:**


- i. Diane shared information that came to her through her position with the Lions Club looking for funding for a ramp. The family in Ludlow may need \$3K - \$3.5K for materials and \$1.7K for labor. Diane to find out more information. Julie will reach out to the Home Modification program to see if that program might be an option for the family.

**d. Not Discussed from prior meetings:**

- i. Town ADA Compliance – The note from the prior meeting is as follows: “The town will be conducting is Annual Walk-through to address ADA compliance.
- ii. Live Closed Caption of ADA meetings – The Commission was informed that virtual/zoom presentations of meetings can occur which would provide additional community access, however not for individuals with hearing impairments. This option will continue to be addressed.
- iii. Social Media and web site development
- iv. Publishing an article in the Register and Reminder about the updates of the Commission activities.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Harry Mills, seconded by Diane Shea Walton, Vote 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting date: Thursday October 26, 2023, 6:00 PM Town Hall, Room #1, in the First Floor Conference Room. A reminder that to access the Commission email page the password is “ability&488”.**

Respectfully submitted,



Julie DiCesare, Treasurer

Minutes accepted as read:

By   *hubs*   Date   10/26/23  

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2023 NOV 28 P 1:01  
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