



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

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**Ludlow Commission on Disability**

Minutes of meeting held on  
October 26, 2023

**Present:**

Tara Bronner, Chairperson  
Julie DiCesare, Treasurer  
Joanne Odatto-Staeb, Secretary  
Jennifer Wright, Member  
Diane Shea Walton, Member  
Christopher Harkins, Member

**Absent:**

Beverly Barry, Vice Chairperson  
Harry Mills, Member

**I. Called to Order:** 6:02 P.M. Role Call and Signature Attendance Sheet shared.

**II. Review and Accept Minutes:** Diane Walton motioned to accept, Christopher Harkings seconded, 6-0 in favor.

**III. Budget/Expense Sheet:**

- a. Julie shared forms required for financial reimbursement for purchases made by Diane Jenny and Joanne. Each will complete and bring to the next scheduled meeting.
- b. Question was raised about using some Commission funds to hire a sign-language interpreter as well as put print options into a large font should a member applicant or community member request it. Shari Carpenter approached the Commission members at the last community event and asked about applying to become a member and expressed she would need an interpreter. Shari said she would reach out should she decide to pursue further.

**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. Meeting is scheduled for 11/7, Tara will try and attend.

**b. Lunch and Learn Senior Center:** No discussion currently.

**c. Park and Recreation outreach:**

- i. Diane went to the meeting and Shawn McBride shared that Whitney Park is getting a make-over and they will ensure it is ADA compliant. Two other parks, West and Electric may benefit from additional support through the commission, possibly an adult swing/glider for someone who might be older but enjoys swinging. Diane will check into this further.
- ii. The Miracle League (Baseball team) was discussed, and Diane will look into further to see if there is some way the Commission could assist.

**d. Community Outreach:**

- i. Public Health nurse wants to partner with the Commission.
- ii. Next Gen – MRC program (for individuals ages 18-30 with disabilities), will be presenting at the library and is open to attend an ADA meeting as well.

- iii. Brianna from Starvos has been speaking about Equity Focus and is open to attending a Commission meeting to share more of what they can offer.
- iv. Tara needs photos of any of the Commission events to help promote our presence.
- e. **Ludlow Cultural Council outreach:**
  - i. Tara attended the most recent Ludlow Cultural Council Commission meeting and was able to speak with a person who is going to be highlighted for his artwork.
  - ii. Tara gathered more information about applying for a grant through the Ludlow Cultural Council to be able to access grant funds regarding the promotion of artists with disabilities and an upcoming art show.
- f. **Celebrate Ludlow 250<sup>th</sup> Town Celebration:**
  - i. Celebrate Ludlow was a great event. The Commission members took turns to sit at the table and speak with community members about the mission and purpose of the Commission.
- g. **CAMP Training:** CAMP training \$ - Tara waiting to hear back from MOD.
- h. **Dine-Out Fundraising Events:** Tara shared that the Villa Rose has supported diner fund raising dates for the Michael J. Dias and Red Ribbon foundations. Tara will present optional dates for the Commission at the next meeting.
- i. Tara, Jenny, and Diane shared information about NAMI programming options and discussed limited mental health community outreach options for residents of Ludlow. Information was also shared about connecting with Ludlow Cares program.

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**V. Town Physical Access**

- a. **Accessibility for Ludlow Residents:**
  - i. Chris shared that a woman who approached him during the Celebrate Ludlow event, expressed concern about telephone poles that were going into the sidewalk across from East Street School were impeding her ability to walk safely with a walker on the sidewalk. It was discussed that this issue will be brought up to Leslie Ward when she attends the next Commission meeting. Also, the standing issue of the parking lot at CVS will be addressed again. Leslie is newly appointed as the ADA Coordinator. Joanne and Tara will see if there is any specific write up of the roles and responsibilities of the ADA Coordinator.
  - ii. Country Bank offers grants and Diane will reach out to her friend Susan to see about help to write a grant to assist a Ludlow family with a second ramp adaptation to their home. Diane will also reach out to the family requesting assistance and share contacts for UCP (United Cerebral Palsy), the Federation of Special Needs, Starvos, and the Home Modification program, that they could further explore.

**VI. Current Members and Subcommittees: It was determined that at least one person be identified to take the lead with specific community members/programs.**

- a. Subcommittees: Schools-Jenny, Senior Center/Home Modification Program-Julie (and Harry), Library and Cultural Council-Tara, Social Media and Website-Chris and Diane
- b. **Commission Positions/Members:** Beverly Dudley submitted her request to become a Commission member. Tara is still waiting to hear of her acceptance by the Selectman.

**VII. Correspondence/Old Business New Business**

- a. **Correspondence:** No new correspondence
- b. **New Business:** Chris and Diane will be taking a lead to develop a social media footprint for the Commission. Julie shared that she had previously looked on Facebook and felt that the Natick Commission offered a good option to explore. Joanne will connect Chris with Marc Strange regarding guidelines the town committee will need to meet compliance.
- c. **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. Publishing an article in the Register and Reminder about the updates of the Commission activities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie DiCesare, seconded by Diane Shea Walton, Vote 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. The next meeting date: Thursday November 30, 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,



Juanna Odat-Staeb, Secretary

Minutes accepted as read:

By Tampa Date 11/30/23

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