



TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

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

Minutes of meeting held on
February 22, 2024

Present:

Tara Bronner, Chairperson
Harry Mills, Member
Christopher Harkins, Member
Beverly Dudley, Member
Diane Shea Walton, Member

Absent:

Beverly Barry, Vice Chairperson
Joanne Odat-Staeb, Secretary
Jennifer Wright, Member
Julie DiCesare, Treasurer

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

II. Review and Accept Minutes: Diane Shea Walton motioned to accept, Harry Mills seconded, 5-0 in favor.

III. Budget/Expense Sheet:

- a. No budget update – Tara requested clarification on how to submit receipts for reimbursement and who specifically to turn it into. She also asked each member to think about if there were any other items we would like to purchase or training we need to attend.
- b. Julie was not present for the meeting, updates of budget balance

IV. Upcoming Trainings/Increasing Town Awareness of Commission: (the goal is to be present at least 1 event quarterly)

a. Park and Recreation:

- i. Diane is taking the lead and making contacts with local banks about grants to increase and/or enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities to West Street and/or Electric Park. Diane will provide updates at the next Commission meeting.

b. Community Outreach:

- i. No discussion

c. Villa Rose: Dine-Out Fundraising Events

- i. The Villa Rose diner fund raising event generated \$498 for the Michael J. Dias Foundation. The Chairperson at the Foundation was extremely grateful thanking the Commission for the donation. The Foundation is interested in partnering with the Commission in the future.

d. School:

- i. Harry dropped off the High School Special Education classroom donation items (Exit 7 tickets, bean bag chairs as well as other items). They were very appreciative of the items. They took a picture with Harry and posted it on their Facebook page with their thanks for the support.

e. Social Media:

- i. Chris has been posting on the social media account and brought up posting in the Ludlow Community Forum to invite people to like our page and learn more about the Commission's work. All members were in support of this, and Chris will follow through with the posting.

f. **Ludlow Cultural Council outreach:**

i. No discussion

g. **Senior Center/Home Modification:**

i. No discussion.

h. **Library Update:**

i. No discussion

i. **MOD CAM (Community Access Monitor) Training:**

i. Tara will reach out again to MOD get more information on next available training for Commission members. Members would like to attend however everyone is currently working and unable to commit to the two, work-day schedule and if there are any weekend or evening options. The training is usually two 5-hour sequential events.

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V. **Town Physical Access**

a. **Accessibility for Ludlow Residents:**

i. Harry reported that the parking lot shared by Alexanders restaurant in the Maple Tree Plaza, is in violation of the state code due to only having one handicapped parking space identified. Harry spoke with the owner/manager of the building, Lynn, and she reported that they want to leave spots open for general parking. Tara proposed to draft a letter Leslie Ward about the violation as multiple attempts have been made to reasonably get the owner to comply with the state law. Chris seconded, all in favor 5-0.

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

a. **Correspondence:** No new correspondence

b. **New Business:**

- i. The Annual Town Commission Report was completed and sent in on 2/13/24. Copies shared with all Commission members.
- ii. The 250 Celebration is looking for community organizations to attend the town picnic in June. Tara motioned to explore hosting a table, Chris seconded, 5-0 in favor. Tara will reach out to the 250 Celebration committee for more information.

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.

A motion to adjourn was made by Harry Mills, seconded by Diane Shea Walton, Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. The next meeting date: Thursday March 28, 2024, 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,

Christopher Harkins

Minutes accepted as read:

Tara Bronner, Chairperson

3/28/24

By _____ Date _____