



TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

CHAIRPERSON: TARA BRONNER
EMAIL: Dis.Comm.Ludlow@gmail.com
TTY: (413) 583-5668

ADA COORDINATOR:
EMAIL: Building@ludlow.ma.us
TELEPHONE: (413) 583-5600 ext. 1210

Ludlow Commission on Disability
Minutes of meeting held on
May 23, 2024

Present:

Tara Bronner, Chairperson
Joanne Odato-Staeb, Secretary
Harry Mills, Member
Christopher Harkins, Member
Diane Shea Walton, Member
Jennifer Wright, Member
Beverly Dudley, Member

Absent:

Vice Chairperson
Julie DiCesare, Treasurer

Guests: Tamara Huntley

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2024 JUL - 11 AM 8:23
TOWN OF LUDLOW

- I. **Called to Order:** 6:05 P.M. Role Call and Signature Attendance Sheet shared.
- II. **Review and Accept Minutes:** Christopher Harkins motioned to accept, Joanne Odato-Staeb seconded, 7-0 in favor.
- III. **Budget/Expense Sheet:**
 - a. Joanne updated the members regarding meeting with the Board of Selectman to request approval to use Commission funds to purchase a handicap accessible picnic table for one of the parks (discussed under Town Awareness), in memory of Beverly Barry, past Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who passed away March 22, 2024. The amount would be approximately \$1,000 (plus installation and a placard). Joanne shared the Commission did not need to access all the budgeted funds for the required CAM training, therefore had sufficient monies available. The Selectmen approved and felt it was a good use of funds. Joanne will get exact costs to order. A motion was made by Joanne Odato-Staeb to access the Commission funds, Tara Bronner seconded, 7-0 in favor.
 - b. As of the meeting date, Julie had not submitted her formal letter of resignation. Tara will reach out to her. Diane Walton offered to step into the role temporarily until formal voting and reorganization can occur.
- IV. **Upcoming Trainings/Increasing Town Awareness of Commission: (the goal is to be present at least 1 event quarterly)**
 - a. **Park and Recreation:**
 - i. Harry will reach out to Sean McBride with the Parks Department to share information regarding a purchase of a handicap accessible picnic table. The Board of Selectmen suggested to locate the table at Whitney Park. Harry will also ask the location we would need to have the table delivered and to who's attention. Tara will contact Jimmy Goodreau or Jamie Tomas to discuss pouring of cement to place the table. Diane shared the grant through People's Bank was a little more involved and required additional information that she would need to reach out to Marc Strange. It was noted that Whitney pool doesn't have a lift. Tara will connect with Diane about following up with this concern.

b. MOD Training:

- i. Joanne will reach out to Jeff Dugan at MOD related to scheduling CAM virtual training being offered. Joanne will need to check with IT to find out about Closed Caption and Screen Reading capabilities for member access.

c. Ludlow Cultural:

- i. Chris and Tara shared information about hosting a table at the music events. Members agreed on July 21 as Tara, Chris, Jen Joanne and possibly Beverly will be available. Tara will reach out to confirm the date with the Cultural Committee. August 25th is another option for participation by members.

d. Color Ludlow with Love:

- i. Jenny discussed the upcoming event on Sept 14th. The Commission hosted a table last year and it was well received. Jenny and Tara (and others if available) will host again this year. Jenny will confirm with the Committee.

e. Register Article:

Jenny and Chris reached out to the Ludlow Register and got an excellent article printed about the multiple activities provided by the Commission. Chris also listed it on the Facebook page.

V. Town Physical Access

a. Accessibility for Ludlow Residents:

- i. Harry continues to follow up on accessible parking and building access issues throughout the town. The Maple Tree Plaza, (having one handicapped parking space identified for all businesses) and the Sunoco gas station has very restricted access.

VI. Correspondence/Old Business New Business

a. Correspondence: No new correspondence. Conflict of Interest training still needs to be completed by several members. Joanne will follow up to ensure everyone has completed the training.

b. New Business:

- i. **Commission Business Cards/Flyers:** Members requested business cards and flyers. Joanne will bring them to the next meeting or if needed sooner, will provide them.
- ii. **High School:** Jenny shared that in conversation about the non-working elevator to the gym, she was informed that there are other multiple access routes to the HS gym. It was noted by others that all of the routes shared would continue to place undue hardship on individuals attempting to access the gym, such as having to walk all of the way to the other side of the building. Jenny will investigate it further.
- iii. **New Members:** Tamara Huntley's application to become a member of the Commission was accepted by the Selectmen. She will be sworn in on 5/28. Commission By-Laws will be shared with all members at the next meeting. Tara will reach out to Julie to confirm her resignation and then submit to the Selectmen the openings for Vice Chairperson and Treasurer. Tara also mentioned that she may need to resign from her role as the Chairperson. Nominations and voting will happen at the next scheduled meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Wright, seconded by Christopher Harkins, Vote 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting date: Thursday June 27 2024, 6:00 PM Town Hall, Room #1, in the First Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Odat-Staeb
Joanne Odat-Staeb, Secretary

Minutes accepted as read:

By Christopher Harkins Date 6/27/24