

Lancaster Commission on Disability

Meeting Minutes April 15, 2014

Members Present: Mike McCue, Chair; Lesley Allison, Rose Bissionette, Daryl Blaney, Marilyn Chambers, Lorry Doucet, Sue Smith, Carolyn Stump

Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

1. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES FROM 2/20/14 & 3/18/14 MEETINGS.
 - a. Tabled 2/20/14 minutes until May meeting
 - b. Reviewed and approved 3/18/14 minutes
2. Town Matters: Thayer Campus Activity, OSRC, Trails, LLC Elevator, Workers' Credit Union and other matters
 - a. Thayer Campus Activity
 - i. Susan Smiley informed Mike that the Thayer initiative would become more active in the upcoming months. The Nathaniel Memorial Park effort appears to be moving forward and Susan suggested attending a COD meeting to further explain. Susan also requested that the COD become re-engaged by attending meetings to provide input etc. Meetings to be announced.
 - ii. Mike asked Lesley to consider attending the Thayer Campus meetings & Lesley agreed to participate whenever possible, or share the responsibility with another COD member if necessary.
 - iii. OSRC
 1. Lesley attended their last meeting (March 26?)
 2. Noreen Piazza, Town Planner, expressed appreciation for the COD involvement with OSRC, Lesley reported.
 - b. Trails
 - i. Mike and Daryl received an email from Noreen in which she requested information on OSRC / Trails accessibility.
 - ii. Eagle Ridge site walk scheduled for April 26
 1. Mike to get directions for where the group is to meet
 - iii. Future potential trails also to include Windsor Heights, perimeter trail at National Thayer Memorial Park, Durling property development (off North Main St) , and Pine Hill (off Pine Hill Road).
 - iv. The commission discussed the need to be vigilant on monitoring such new trails, to ensure accessibility wherever possible/ practical.
 - v. Daryl reported last week's Trail meeting has been postponed.
 - vi. Mike announced a key upcoming conference, on Nov 8, called "Mass Trails For All" to be held at the DoubleTree Sheraton Hotel in Leominster.
 - vii. Mike received a copy of the March 31, 2014 letter to the AAB by Alix Turner. The anticipated new completion date is now June 2014.
 - c. Workers' Credit Union (WCU)
 - d. Mike visited the WWU and a new HC Parking sign was installed the next day. The previous signs were victims of the recent harsh winter/plowing.
 - e. Other Matters
 - i. River Terrace – Lorry plans to visit again regarding improving the entrance signage

3. Accessibility Awareness Month
 - a. Mike to submit formal request for use of an area on Town Green for events to be planned on October 4th, in addition to having the Select Board proclaim October as Accessibility Awareness Month.
 - b. "Disability Walk" could possibly be held on a weekday to make it easier for Town Officials to take part, or in conjunction with Farmer's Market, and/or on a Sunday. Times to be determined.
 - c. Mass Safety Council Van demo at event on October 4 – Rose has a contact & will look into this possibility.
 - d. ABLE Company – Lorry to contact a possible resource
 - e. Mike showed a sample project/ activity tracking sheet that included notes and dates & more, which another group used. A similar tracking tool is needed for the awareness month project.
 - i. It was decided to have a separate Excel tracking spreadsheet developed
 - ii. Lesley suggested perhaps use of Google Docs , if all could use, for collaboration
 - f. Individual interests: Lorry - advertising, marketing with Mike; Sue – open, staff a table etc; Marilyn – education area; Rose – possible contact arrangements, education; Daryl – info research, setup etc; Carolyn – recordkeeping
 - i. Carolyn will set up an Excel tracking spreadsheet for review
 - g. Banner – Daryl will check into this
 - h. Portable tent would be good to have for the COD booth. Daryl may have a 10x10 one.
 - i. Rose offered to share a proclamation example format that the COD could use for Lancaster.
 - j. Budget
4. The Mass Office on Disability (MOD is to hold an Access Monitor Training Session (4/22,23 – Worcester)
 - a. Brochures were handed out for those interested in attending
 - i. Lorry wants to attend (needs transportation)
 - b. Mike to contact Jeff Dougan at the MOD to request that notices & information is to be sent to the Lancaster COD Chair. The MOD database is apparently out of date.
5. Other Issues
 - a. Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund
 - i. No new info available
 - b. Town Website
 - i. Lesley sent Summary of COD purpose, links, updated annual report to Town Clerk for inclusion on the Town Website.
 - c. Emergency Planning
 - i. Mike plans to follow up with Mike Hanson on the status of the new manual, etc.
 - d. COD Office
 - i. Office space continues to be compromised. A Large copier installed by Alix Turner now occupies significant space in the room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Stump, Minutes Secretary

