

## **Lancaster Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2016**

### **LLC / Senior Center**

Attendees: Mike McCue, Marilyn Chambers, Daryl Blaney, Lesley Allison

Absent: Rose Bissonette, Lorry Doucet, Carolyn Stump

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

#### **1. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES FROM 3/15/16 MEETING.**

- a. We will strike the wording in 3.d. "And determined it was a 'State Problem'".

#### **2. TOWN MATTERS**

##### **a. Bigelow Gardens:**

- i. Mike asked Rose McDonald for the information she had reported collecting. She did give him a packet of info and he did watch the video. He reports it is evident the Tenants Association and the Lancaster Housing Authority have an adversarial relationship. It would be difficult for the two groups to make progress without a constructive working relationship.
- ii. Daryl and Marilyn both report they have not heard the same complaints on Bigelow from all the residents.
- iii. We should be working for the accessibility issues as an advisory group and remain neutral without taking sides.
- iv. Discussion involved the MOD disability rights laws in Massachusetts regarding housing requirements. There is Department of Housing and Community Development grant money available to be applied for from the state for accessibility improvements. The deadline for the application is tomorrow.
- v. The LHA board meeting at Bigelow Gardens is 4/27/16.

##### **b. Prescott building:**

- i. Mike got the latest copies of the plan from Ryan McNutt at a meeting on Tuesday.
- ii. Issues to be investigated: thresholds, automatic door openers, parking issues - up front near ramp.
- iii. Main question at the meeting: can the old building (Town Hall) remains open if not accessible at all levels. Architect says it can.

##### **c. Town Beach:**

- i. Mike got a letter from Johanna Doyle to Harold Naughton regarding handicapped accessibility issues at the beach. Discussions continue regarding these plans in the Recreation Committee.

- d. Emergency preparedness:
  - i. Mike got a copy of a booklet that was prepared by Sterling and was issued to Lancaster Fire Department as a template of ideas.
    - 1. Mike to send out an e-copy of the document for COD members to review and make suggestions for alterations specific for our town.
- 3. Accessible Outreach Assistance:
  - a. Boy Scouts involved? Eagle project?
    - i. Lesley to reach out to Scout committee to inquire if they are interested.
    - ii. Consider another town mailing or handout to advertise.
- 4. Miscellaneous and Other:
  - a. Fitchburg Accessibility Awareness Event is April 26, 2016 from 4-7 pm
    - i. Will Rose attend?
  - b. New Bus Transportation service "Max" is now available in Lancaster, funded by Mass DOT.
    - i. The bus stops in Lancaster and makes other stops along the route from Worcester to North Hampton. A schedule is available on the Town website.
    - ii. It is fully ADA compliant and accessible.
  - c. Website Accessibility
    - i. Lesley is to email virtual towns and schools to follow up and clarify the determination on the accessibility of the town website.
  - d. Mike reported that Selectman Walter Sendrowski had met with town officials. Walter Sendrowski was impressed with our organization and expressed this to town officials. Town officials indicated they thought highly of us and they pledged to include COD on communications going forward. Kudos to the COD.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm

Minutes taken by Lesley Allison (Sent from my iPad).

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Stump,