

Disability Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Meeting convened and called to order at 6:06 PM.

Members Present

Marcia Cairns, Ronald Menard, Patrick Crowley, Lisa Thompson

Members Absent

Kim Hopewell and Michael McConville

Invited Guests

Michael Edwards (The Collins Center)

Jennifer Warren-Dymont (West Boylston Town Administrator)

Discussion about the By-Laws:

- Disability Commission By-laws cannot be brought to Fall Town Meeting
- Town Moderator says we need to meet with By-Law Committee first
- Town administrator (Jennifer) says No one presented the by-laws, need more fine-tuning before incorporation into the general by-laws.
- Jen recommends putting off to Spring Town Meeting so there is more time to fine tune and go over.
- Pat motioned to remove request to vote on By-Laws for the Fall Town Meeting and wait until Spring Town Meeting.
- Marcia seconded the motion.
- Roll Call vote unanimous in favor

Discussion about ADA coordinator

- Ron met with Jim Purcell to give him a copy of the ADA Coordinator page sent to commission members.
- Ron read the paragraph that needs to be attached to the ADA Coordinator's Job description:
- Jim informed Ron that our timing is good because the Building Inspector/ADA Coordinator's current contract is due to expire at the end of 2022.
- Mike Edwards said we need to have discussions about this, because the Building Inspector can't be expected to deal with non-building code issues.
- There is danger in overloading them with stuff outside their job.
- ADA coordinator needs to monitor long term and short-term goals

Grievance Procedure

- Ron sent a copy of West Boylston Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Prepared by Kim, this is the proposed grievance procedure to comply with ADA requirements.)
- Vote to approve the procedure before taking it to town administrator to approve.
- Roll Call vote taken with a unanimous vote to approve

Michael Edwards presents the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

- There is a lot to be looked at. Need to prioritize. Not possible to address everything right away.
- Checklist of things that need to be done
- Need to look at town meetings and how to make accessible
- The Governor's order on open meeting law which starts March 2023 bears looking at by the Disability Commission.
- Our work starts with the transition plan: highly simplified version of what is in the evaluation document.
- We need to figure out when and how we will tackle projects.
- We need a phased approach: What can we fix? How to fund it? How to prioritize?
- Pat: The Selectboard decides, not in our control
- Marcia: We would like to have input.
- Mike Edwards: There is no guidance on exactly what next steps look like. Don't rush, focus on organizational structure of how you attack this stuff. Your approach must be thought out and you need to decide how to prioritize.
- In the next year we prioritize stuff
- All things need to be done right
- Focus on the front end

Approval of August's meeting minutes, all approve.

Set next meeting for October 25th at 6:00 PM

Motion to adjourn, all approve

Meeting ends at 6:58PM

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Thompsom

Scribe

