

Sharon Disability Commission – Minutes, August 26, 2015

Meeting location: Sharon Community Center

Meeting start: 7:08 pm

Present: Paul Remy, Lois Diamond, Susan Myerson, Jana Katz, Peter Melvin, Sandy Biber

Absent: Geila Aronson

Guests: Fred Turkington, Sharon Town Administrator

Note: the minutes refer to “Paul’s Notes”, a document prepared by Paul as an extended agenda, dated 8/26/15. Please see this accompanying document for any additional information.

I. An opportunity for public input into the agenda was presented.

II. The minutes of June 17, 2015 were reviewed and accepted.

III. Treasurer’s report
\$1,842.57 in ticket fund
\$2,566.97 in donation fund
\$4,409.54 in available funds

It was noted that the \$750 scholarship was probably not deducted at the time that these amounts were verified. The check for this amount has been sent to the recipient. With this deducted, the funds sit at \$3,659.54.

IV. Guest: Fred Turkington
(Please see Paul’s Notes)
Regarding the accessibility study: There were 3 bids; one was accepted and will conduct the study. The goals of the study are:

- 1) What in Town Hall is not in legal compliance and the cost to bring these aspects of Town Hall into compliance;
- 2) Look at the building and consider not only what would make it accessible, but what would make it work better;
- 3) Look at Town Hall and the fire station together; consider both buildings, consider what might work best to meet town needs and present options.

There is no way at this point to know what the cost will be for any of the options noted above. On an interim basis, all town boards will meet at the community center so that they are accessible. Cable coverage will be provided.

Mr. Turkington added that if there are funds left over from the accessibility study, the town may request a look at One School Street building to see what accessibility needs are there.

Lois stated that the Adult Ed registration site was not accessible; Mr. Turkington stated he would investigate.

Ames Street playground; Paul requested clarification regarding the possibility of requesting funds to improve accessibility. Mr. Turkington stated that he wasn't sure when this would be in the capital funds budget. His experience was that the cost for this sort of project would be roughly \$150,000.00. (See Paul's Notes).

Paul opened a discussion regarding the role of cities and Disability Commissions to inspect accessibility projects prior to completion to ensure compliance. In the discussion, it was agreed that this was a role that the Commission could fill; in the train station work, for example, the town couldn't inspect as the project was on MBTA land.

Paul's Notes include a discussion of the placement of handicapped spots in the Sharon Train station. It appears that the MBTA may make a correction in this oversight. The group discussed the need for extra curb cuts as well as parking spaces.

There was discussion of the funds coming to the Commission from parking fines (parking in handicapped only spots). See Paul's Notes. The group agreed that Susan would contact the Police Chief and cc Mr. Turkington.

Snowflake Program (see Paul's Notes); the group agreed to wait until the new Director of the Council on Aging has been appointed to discuss.

Mr. Turkington left, and the meeting continued.

V. Old Business

Square Jam:

There was some disappointment with the response of the crowd. Very few shirts were sold.

25th Anniversary T-Shirts:

Rina at the Binah School told Paul that she got an order for 15 T-shirts. Paul is following up on this.

250 Anniversary Parade:

Paul will follow up with the COA to see if we can use their mini-van.

Equipment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Paul noted that this probably won't move forward until Norma's replacement has been hired and has acclimated.

Disability Awareness Day:

Please see Paul's Notes.

VI. New Business

Paul suggested waiting until next month for elections.

Next meetings:

DAD 9/9, at Hixson Farm Community Building

Commission, 9/30 (moved back one week due to Yom Kippur)

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Biber