

## **Sharon Commission on Disabilities Location and Meeting**

**Sharon Adult Center, Library Date and Time: Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

**Called to Order at 7:02 pm Minutes**

**Prepared by Marcie Ostrow**

Attendees: Paul Remy, Susan Myerson, Asma Abdullah, Richard Seronick, Marcie Ostrow, Geila Aronson, Lois Diamond (via phone)

- Town Meeting 11/4/19
  - The proposal for the new Sharon High School was approved by a majority of “Yes” votes
  - On current Sharon High School
    - There was a recent incident where an athlete had an injury and a wheelchair was not available
    - We should look into making sure that wheelchairs are available in the athletic office or nurse’s office. We should confirm 1) if they have them and 2) if we can provide them
- New Town Hall should be provided with wheelchairs to support those with limited mobility in the town of Sharon
- Sharon Treasurer’s Report
  - \$4,076.93 – General expenses
  - \$12,187.57 - Ticket fund
  - \$1,227.97 – Donations
- Town Hall Tour will be 11/26 at 11am (1 hour)
- Town of Sharon Health Department
  - Research the cost to purchase a wheelchair scale for the Town Nurse
  - We discussed the idea of the Town collecting old medical equipment (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) and keeping it in a central location to be loaned for free to town residents
- HESSCO Visit
  - We discussed with the HESSCO representative about attending the April 2020 Summit instead of conducting our own fair. We agreed it made sense to work together with other towns’ senior organizations to drive better attendance
- Commission on Disability Website

- We discussed the payment of renewing our yearly costs of \$120 and whether an online website was actually being utilized. We should continue looking into just having a page on the Town of Sharon website instead of maintaining our own website
- New business
  - We discussed about having a column in *The View*, the Town of Sharon's Office on Aging Newsletter, to cover accessibility issues in the town. We discussed problem areas at Sharon businesses that do not provide accessible access to those with mobility issues. This column would provide information regarding accessibility issues (how to register with *The Ride*, how to get a handicap placard, making a medication list and putting it a medicine bottle for emergency reasons, etc.)
    - For example, Marcie mentioned that the electric scooters at Shaw's at Shaw's Plaza are not spaced properly and are not easily accessible to those with disabilities
    - Also, there was mention of an insurance company that was not handicap accessible for residents (we believe the name is Aronson's Insurance)
    - Sharon's Veterinarian Clinic was also mentioned as not being very accessible
    - Marcie mentioned that the carts at the Sharon CVS are not in an accessible location
    - We as a Committee approved for Marcie to contact these businesses on the committee's behalf to address and correct these problems
- Health Fair
  - Paul and Asma would co-chair the subcommittee to organize the Health Fair. The Commission is going to decide in February or March 2020 whether to have such an event.
- Committee Membership
  - Susan Friedman and Amy will be resigning from the committee
  - As a committee, we decided to send them a thank you and a certificate for their volunteer service on the committee
  - We will need to find 2 new members to fill these vacancies
  - Asma has a list from Square Jam of potentially interested candidates and she will reach out to validate their level of interest and let them know the date of our commission's next meeting
  - We will contact candidates regarding next steps on joining the commission, given the limited number of seats
- Next Committee meeting will take place Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Office on Aging library