

Sharon Commission on Disabilities

November 18, 2020

Location: Zoom

Meeting call to order: 7:00 pm

Attendance: Paul Remy, Susan Myerson, Lois Diamond, Geila Aronson, Asma Abdullah, James Newton

Absent: Richard Seronick

Treasurer Report:

Handicapped parking ticket fund:	\$ 16,198.17
Donations:	\$ 1,227.97
General fund	\$ 500.00

- I. Election of officers – Finishing out the slate, James Newton was elected Secretary.
- II. Paul Remy reported on a meeting of the Sharon Racial Equity Alliance (SREA), an unaffiliated nonprofit at which they talked about supporting local candidates for office, such as school committee. While the Commission on Disabilities cannot take a formal position as an organization in support of such candidates, it was discussed that we should step up as private individuals to work with SREA, and support candidates who support the goals of the SREA and people with disabilities.

In addition, the SREA is going to try to become a part of the hiring screening/review process for town personnel. Susan was to check on if the Commission could take such a role.
- III. It was decided that the Commission should work with the SREA and the Town's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee to host a showing of "Crip Camp," sometime in the new year. James was tasked with doing this.
- IV. Paul attended of the meeting of the Sharon Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee and said that he would report back to us about it at the Commission's December meeting.

- V. The Commission approved the purchase of clear (“smile”) facemasks for the Sharon school system’s special education teachers. James and Susan were to coordinate as Susan was also doing such activity for Heights. Geila had tried to contact the vendor Rafinova, to discuss the purchase of the masks, without success; James was to follow up.

The Sharon Housing Authority (SHA) would like to replace 20 doorknobs with door levers in the handicapped apartments, with a cost of \$200-\$300. In addition, the SHA needs automatic door openers at ~\$1200 per opener. The Commission agreed to purchase one such door opener. In both cases Geila was to contact the SHA and other relevant parties for more specific information and submit a proposal for a vote at the December Commission meeting.

- VI. Related, a general inquiry was made as to the needs of other organizations in Sharon regarding accessibility or assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Geila was to contact the Food Pantry and Paul was to contact the Fire Department to see if they had any additional needs at this time and report back to the Commission.
- VII. Sharon has a new town nurse and Paul was to reach out to her to invite to a Commission meeting for a ‘meet and greet.’
- VIII. Meeting adjourned.