

Sharon Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of March 24, 2021 Meeting
Location: Zoom
Called to order: 7:05 pm.

Present: Paul Remy, Susan Myerson, Gela Aronson, Susan Friedman, Todd Arnold, and Ruth Beckerman-Rodau

Absent: Asma Abdullah, Lois Diamond, and James Newton

1. Welcome

Ruth Beckerman-Rodau and Todd Arnold were welcomed as new members of the Commission on Disabilities. They were appointed to the Commission by the Select Board on March 9. Both Ruth and Todd confirmed that they were sworn in and completed the on-line ethics and conflict of interest training.

2. Non-Member Attendance at meetings

Paul Remy shared that Melissa Imbaro, the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board, informed him that non-members are able to attend Commission meetings but, are ineligible to vote. Carol Roesh and Joanna Levenson have been invited to attend as non-members. Individuals interested in becoming members when a vacancy becomes available can complete an on-line application that can be found at https://www.townofsharon.net/sites/g/files/vyhlf3801/f/uploads/board-committee_application_2019.pdf.

3. Meeting minutes

December 2020 and February 2021 minutes were distributed by email prior to the meeting. They will be voted on at the April 2021 meeting.

4. Treasurer's report

Commission Treasurer Geila Aronson reported the balances of the following funds:

Office Supply Fund	\$ 500.00
Handicapped Parking Fee Fund/Revolving Fun	\$15,998.17
Fundraising (donations)	<u>\$ 1,227.97</u>
Total	\$17,726.14

Geila confirmed that she sent the Sharon Special Education Parent Advisory Committee a check in the amount of \$800 to help fund the list of needed supplies that was shared with the Committee at the February meeting.

5. Replacement of Brick Crosswalks

Paul shared that he received the following information about replacing the brick crosswalks from Sharon Town Engineer Peter O'Cain:

- The bricks and granite that currently make up the crosswalks will be replaced with asphalt.
- The seams between the new and old asphalt will be tack coated with liquid asphalt. There is no way around having a seam, unless the whole roadway is repaved. The seams will run parallel to the crosswalk.
- Repaving the whole roadway is out of the question both technically and financially. The roadway is not in poor condition and there is no need for a roadway repave. Additionally, the roads scheduled for repaving in any given year are chosen in September of the previous year.

Paul will inform Peter of the 4 crosswalks the Commission would like repaved this year.

6. Adjusting Timing of Crosswalk Timing Lights

Though Sharon Town Engineer Peter O'Cain originally stated in an email to Paul that the timing of the lights are set by MA DOT guidelines and such timing would not be altered in 2021. In a subsequent email Peter stated that the crossing time will be increased from 24 to 30 seconds.

Paul will send Peter an email with the following requests:

- That the additional 6 seconds be added to the white flashing person (and not the red flashing hand).
- An estimated time for the resetting of the crosswalk timing lights
- An estimated time for the repaving of the 4 crosswalks

7. Request from Housing Authority for funds for Automatic Door Openers

Geila reported that Nancy Bartley was unable to provide the requested info. for this meeting but, would forward the info. to Geila prior to the Commission's April meeting.

8. Showing *Crip Camp*

Since James Newton was not present this item was held until the April meeting.

9. Reimbursement for Purchase of Clear face masks

At a prior meeting, the Commission approved the reimbursement to James of cost of purchase of clear face masks. Since James Newton was not present this item was held until the April meeting.

10. Articles for *The View*

Paul Remy reported that James Newton wrote an informative article about the difficulties for people with disabilities getting the Covid-19 vaccine shots for the April issue of *The View*.

Paul will be writing an article for the May issue of *The View* about either the refurbishing of the crosswalks in town or about smartwatches that have features for people with disabilities and senior citizens.

It is requested that Commission members who volunteer to write articles for *The View* submit them to Paul and Susan Myerson for review a minimum of 1 week prior to *The View's* monthly submission deadline.

11. Ethics and Conflict of interest online training

Commission members were reminded of the requirement to complete the on-line Ethics and Conflict of Interest training every 2 years. Those whose certificate of completion is more than 2 years old are encouraged to complete the training asap. Upon completion of the training a copy of the course certificate should be sent by email to Beth Kourafas, Assistant Town Clerk, at bkourafas@townofsharon.org. In addition, every 2 years, members need to complete a form stating they received a copy of the Conflict of Interest law. The completed form should also be sent to Beth Kourafas.

12. Scholarship Award to Graduating High School Student

The Commission awards the Leslie Kreiger Scholarship of \$1,000 to a disabled graduated high school student. The date for submission of applications for the scholarship is April 9. The Committee will vote for the recipient of the scholarship at its meeting on April 28.

13. Inventory of Books for Young Children that Feature the Disabled Available at School and Town Libraries

Ruth Beckerman-Rodau inquired whether the Commission was interested in gathering information on books that feature individuals with disabilities available through the school and town library for preschool and elementary school children. Commission members enthusiastic supported this project and Ruth agreed to contact librarians to discuss obtain inventories of such books. If the information obtained leads to the conclusion that the libraries could benefit from additional books the Commission will discuss how to fund such purchases including a possible partnership with

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission on Disabilities is scheduled for April 28th at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: Ruth Beckerman-Rodau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55.