

SHARON COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting held on October 27, 2021

Location: Zoom

Called to order: 7:39 p.m.

Attendance: Paul Remy, Susan Myerson, Geila Aronson, Susan Friedman, Ruth Beckerman-Rodau

Absent: James Newton, Lois Diamond, Todd Arnold, and Asma Abdullah

Guests: Gordon Gladstone, Chair, Sharon Standing Building Committee and Chris Blessen, Lead Architect for Sharon's new High School.

I. Accessibility in Design of New High School

Paul Remy introduced Gordon Gladstone, Chair of the Sharon Standing Building Committee (SSBC). Mr. Gladstone explained that the SSBC is responsible for the building of all new municipal buildings including the new High School, which is expected to open to students in September 2022. Mr. Gladstone also introduced Chris Blessen the Lead Architect on the project.

Mr. Blessen spoke about how universal access was incorporated throughout the new high school to provide access to all, including individuals with mobility, sight and hearing impairments. He further shared that:

- Staff who work with students with disabilities were involved in the planning of the building including the design process as well as the choice of colors, furniture, and textures.
- Specific attention was paid to the social and emotional aspects of learning to ensure that the environment of the new building did not evoke anxiety.
- There will be 2 elevators in the new 2-story building and 2 rescue assistance areas where those needing assistance to get from the 2nd to 1st floor can wait protected from fire for up to 2 hours.
- Various systems to assist individuals who are hearing impaired are located in most classrooms as well as the auditorium, gym, and black box theatre

Mr. Gladstone shared that Commission on Disability members will be invited to take a tour of the new High School building before it is formally open in September 2022.

II. Donation Request

Geila Aronson, Treasurer shared that the One Book One Town organization has requested a \$500 donation from the Commission on Disability for this year's programming which is on the book *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill*. The book's main character has a disability. A motion was made and seconded for the Commission on Disabilities to give a \$500 donation to the One Book One Town organization. The vote was unanimous in favor of the donation.

III. Treasurer's Report

Geila Aronson, Treasurer presented the following information on the Commission's account balances:

▪ General Account	\$500.00
▪ Ticket Account	\$15,398.17
Donation Account	\$1,227

IV. Accessibility of Conservation Commission Property

Since James Newton was not present this agenda item will be held over for the November meeting.

V. Town Hall Lobby Seating

Ruth Beckerman-Rodau reported that she spoke with Fred Turkington, Sharon Town Administrator, requesting that a chair with arms be placed in the lobby so that a visitor needing to utilize the arms for assistance sitting down or getting up could be accommodated. Ms. Beckerman-Rodau shared that Mr. Turkington said he would look at the lobby and respond by email to this request.

VI. Article for the Sharon Council on Aging Newsletter, *The View*

Paul Remy shared that he wrote an article on COVID booster shots for the November edition of *The View* and that he would be writing an article on the use of audio books by individuals with visual disabilities for the December edition. Ruth Beckerman-Rodau suggested that the January article be on the accessibility of the new High School.

VII. Next Meeting

Since the next regularly scheduled meeting is the day before Thanksgiving, the November meeting will be held on November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All those present voted unanimously to adjourn.