

Sharon Commission on Disabilities (CoD)
Monthly meeting: April 27, 2023
Location: Zoom

Called to order: 7:01 pm.

Attendance: Susan Myerson, James Newton, Paul Remy, Geila Aaronson, Lois Diamond, and Susan Friedman

Absent: Todd Arnold and Select Board Liaison to COD Hannah Switelkowski

I. Minutes: Commission will attempt to record meetings – James to explore how that could happen. Approval of February minutes tabled until next meeting.

II. Collaboration with Sharon Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Sharon SEPACP): A. Assistive technology fair and B. Donation

A. Andrea Pannone, director of SEPAC wants to hold a fair on assistive technology. Presently she is working with Easter Seals and awaiting information from them. She has talked to the director of Special Education, Jessica Murphy who is excited to help. She is exploring possible locations—such as the high school, middle school or the Rec Center. Could use HS, MS or Rec Center, and possible dates—likely sometime Fall 2023, perhaps as part of Sharon Day.

Fair would be a broad display of assistive technology and companies. Massachusetts organizations like Mass Rehab, MassMatch, of town's CODs etc. could connect us to the various technology companies who would come to display.

Easter Seals provides financial support to people who can't afford such services. What role would the COD have? We will explore as we go forward.

B. Also, the COD is making a \$600 donation to SEPAC for high school students with special needs, specifically the Post and RISE programs at the High School, and to with stocking the new kitchen there which helps those students learn cooking skills and allowing for their greater independence.

III. Treasurer's Report

General Fund: \$500

Revolving (Ticket) Fund: \$16,698.17

Donations: \$1327.97

IV. Leslie Kriger (High School) Memorial Scholarship: Three applicants. Commission voted to award the Scholarship to Madeline Tajalli.

V. Reading a draft statement to support building the proposed ADA-compliant Library: Yes, the COD should submit a statement. Once challenge is who can read it at

the meeting - can Hannah S read at the meeting? Amend the letter to be within the purview of the Commission's mission to be read.

VI. Attending Town Meeting. Monday (and possible Tuesday) May 1, starting a 7 pm. Geila can attend Monday.

VII. Sidewalk accessibility in front of Coriander. Keep an eye open to see if the restaurant is blocking the sidewalk with its outdoor seating. If it is, we will attempt to work with them in a neighborly manner to rectify the problem.

VIII. Students and Recruiting new members. Amanda Pierce from the SHS- Post program couldn't come tonight. No new interest in joining the Commission has been expressed.

IX. Conflict of Interest Training The new State's Conflict of Interest site, <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com>, is now operational. The certificate of completion is now automatically sent to the Town Clerk. After completing the Conflict of Interest training, we need to do the second part called Acknowledge Receipt of the Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees, which takes about ten minutes. As unpaid Municipal Employees, we are required to take the Conflict of Interest training every two years.

X. Meet in person next month. Yes, if we can.

XI. Article for the View – Paul to write on services that the Police and Fire Departments have for people with disabilities.

XII. New Business – Much better signage at the HS for handicapped access at the front door. Windows have been frosted to provide privacy, etc.

Next Meeting: May 25th, 2023 at 7 pm, location TBD.

Adjournment 8:01 pm.