

Sharon Commission on Disabilities
Monthly meeting: August 24, 2023
Location: Sharon Adult Center's library

Call to Order: 7:05

Attendance: Members: Paul Remy, James Newton, Susan Freidman, Susan Myerson, and Todd Kiva.

Absent: Geila Aaronson, Lois Diamond, Select Board Liaison to COD Hannah Switelkowski

Guests: Andrea Panone, Rusty Callaway and David Greene

I. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer was absent so no report.

II. **Commission on Disabilities member candidate:** Rusty Callaway has come forward to be a member of the Commission. His wife, Sandy Biber, served on this Commission for several years and was a wonderful asset. The Commission was impressed with his qualifications and urged him to move forward with his candidacy before the the Select Board.

III. **Collaboration with Sharon Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Sharon SEPAC) to host an assistive technology fair:**

Update from Andrea Panone of SEPAC on the event:

- Location is the cafeteria at SHS, 11 am to 2 pm on 10/22.
- Working on proposal to make sure preparation continues on schedule.
- Organizations invited:

dmeREuse
MRC Connect
MassMatch (The ARC)
EasterSeals
SHARE: Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitation Engineering
DDS

To date, dmeREuse (Dan Perkins) and EasterSeals (Michele Boutelle) have committed. Expecting to hear from more of the organizations soon.

Handicapped parking for the event may be an issue. Andrea is working with Town on that.

IV. Commission on Disabilities involvement in new Library

Project: At 2023 Annual Town Meeting language under Article 20 was approved to add a special member to the Sharon Standing Building Committee appointed by the Commission on Disabilities or their designee whenever a project is assigned to the SSBC for project management (in this case, the library project). The amendment to the article envisioned the COD-appointee to attend all meetings and vote on matters. That individual would bring the perspective of the disabled community in design and construction, not merely bring issues to attention and suggest resolutions. The Commission is going to work with Town management to find a suitable candidate.

V. Accessibility at Beth Israel Lahey Primary Care in Sharon: Entering the facility is difficult because the entrance's platform is too small and the two entrance doors do not have automatic door openers. James to contact BIDLHC-Sharon to see who to contact, i.e. who the owner of the building is.

VI. Accessible seating in high school auditorium: Last month Gordon Gladstone send Paul a diagram, which he forwarded to the members, where the fixed accessible seating in the high school auditorium. He also stated that the auditorium has removable seating to make additional room for wheelchair and scooter users when needed and suggested contacting Tony Kopacz, the facilities director for the schools. Paul is going to email to Tony and James will follow up

VII. Community Access Monitoring training: Sandy Biber is taking the online Community Access Monitor training in September. She will be available after the training if the commission has questions concerning accessibility.

VIII. Appointing a temporary commission Chairperson: In Paul's absence, the Commission will need to figure out new leadership. Discussions to continue between now and the next meeting on how to move forward.

IX. Having Commission meetings every two or three months: The Commission discussed having meetings less frequently and will discuss again next month once the leadership situation is resolved.

X. Conflict of Interest online 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.

XI. Article for *The View*: Paul to write an article about the AT Fair for the October issue of *The View*.

XII. Beach accessibility: Todd inspected the beach access and didn't find any issues.

XIII. Crescent Ridge: Susan Myerson, to send a thank you card to Crescent Ridge, for increasing the accessibility at their facility; James to contact them to see about given a donation to a charity associated with Crescent Ridge as a thank you.

XIV. New business: Town Resident David Greene has concerns about crosswalk and sidewalk access. He will return at the next meeting with specifics about what needs to change.

Next Meeting: August 21 7 pm Adult Ed Center Library.

Adjournment: 8:15