

## Disability Commission Meeting Minutes January 27, 2016

Members present: Paul Remy, Peter Melvin, Susan Myerson, Jena Katz, Amy Karas

Guests: Valerie Viera, Paul's personal care assistance

Absent: Chanie Minowitz, Geila Aronson, Lois Diamond, Jessica Stanford

Meeting called to order at 7:28 PM

**Public Input:** Bathroom doors and shoveling walkways are two topics we should address in the future. The bathroom doors at a Dunkin Donuts are too heavy for a person with mobility or motor issues to open easily.

**Approval:** Minutes from December approved

**Treasurer's Report:** \$1,292.57 Handicap Parking \$2, 901.90 Jana volunteered to call the Sharon PD to see how many tickets have been issued in the last 6 months.

### **Old Business:**

Peter O'Cain was at the meeting with the MBTA where it was discussed that there are no accessible spaces at the MBTA. The commission decided to contact Mr. O'Cain to see if accessible spaces were in the original plan?

Jana volunteered to contact Allan Motenko at DOT to see about getting more spaces at the train station.

The commission discussed a news article handicap parking in Fall River and illegal use examples.

Jana will send Paul Remy the number and update on bills related to illegal use of handicap placards.

Peter says private ways like Hixon Farm are frequent places of illegal placard use or cars parking illegally in handicap spots. He suggested that the commission work with the police department to establish a way for citizens to report it.

Peter will talk to Jane at the Sharon Housing Authority meeting on Monday about the possibility of addressing the handicap parking abuse on Hixon Farm Road which is a private way.

Paul Remy said he has to write to the Board of Selectmen to ask about raising the fine to \$500.

Jana will find out about the history of legislation looking to raise the fine to \$500.

The Accessibility Study came back with three options in a preliminary study.

The question arose that would the whole town be ADA compliant in these scenarios or just the Town Hall?

The TV show concerning disability related issues needs a name. Paul Remy wants to include the COA Advisory committee in the planning.

Commission members unanimously approved to give a \$1,000 scholarship in 2016 to a high school graduate with special needs,

2015 Annual Report submitted to Town

JJ McGrath lost his nephew Christopher Cosman, whom had Muscular Dystrophy, and the commission will send Selectman JJ a card and made a \$150 donation to Mass Hospital School, where Christopher attended, in memory of Christopher.

Jessica Stanford is resigning due to family obligations.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Katz