

FAIRHAVEN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023

Held at Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA. 02719

Contact: cod@fairhaven-ma.gov

Present: Town Hall: Eleanor Chew (secretary) and Annemarie Chagnon

ZOOM: Pamela Whynot (vice-chair), Glenn Gabbard (Treasurer), Marcus Ferro (chair), and Ronnie Medina.

Guests: Fairhaven Cable TV

ALL VOTES WERE TAKEN BY ROLL CALL VOTE

I. CALL TO ORDER: Eleanor Chew read the call to meeting state guidelines and the closed captioning announcement. Marcus called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m..

II. MINUTES: Pam moved the acceptance of the minutes with Annemarie seconding this. The motion passed unanimously.

III. MEMBERSHIP: Marcus said there was nothing new and that our quorum was 4 as the board is now 7 members. Eleanor responded that one member has not resigned so our board is 8 people so that 5 was still the quorum. Marcus said this person needs to come to meetings or resign so he would not have to remove them.

IV. TOWN ACCESSIBILITY:

A. TOWN HALL: We now have closed captioning as an option for those that need it. Marcus thanked Donna for taking the lead on this. Eleanor said that at the last Select Board meeting Angie had corrected her prior comments to include the work of the COD on this matter. Marcus said he was happy to hear that, thanking Angie for her support and recognition.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY: Marcus said Eleanor has the seat belt covers for the schools. Eleanor responded that she was trying to connect with Morgan from the schools.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE: Pam needs to write a letter to owners for next year so we are ready with this.

D. SPECIAL EDUCATION: Marcus said we still have a need for a contact and that perhaps Morgan could be that person for us.

E. HOUSING NEWSLETTER: Marcus asked Pam for an update with Pam responding that we need communication with the Housing Authority about what to put in the newsletter

F. SOCIAL MEDIA: Marcus said that we need to post for us to be recognized and known as this is good way to be seen. Annemarie asked how to get something posted with Marcus telling her to send it to he or Pam as they have access to the account.

G: BY-LAWS: Marcus said he needed to work on this. He also said without a lot to do on the agenda he would like to meet next in May rather than in April. Pam reminded us that MA COD requires us to meet ten times a year to be recognized by them.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT/BUDGET: Glenn said there was nothing new to share, except a follow up to February's meeting. We still have budget from last year. He was asked if we could move it. Annemarie asked if there was a deadline to use it and whether the money was calendar year or fiscal year. Glenn reminded us that the money had not been spent in 2 years and that the money is not taken away. Eleanor explained that the money ends at the end of the fiscal year and is reallocated for the next year at the annual town meeting. Pam asked if we could talk about this now, to which Marcus responded yes, asking if there was something we wanted. Pam said community awareness things which had been brought up by Donna and Annemarie. She asked if we could do a training on universal access or something similar. Marcus replied that would be good if it was less than \$1,000.00. Pam offered to do research on this. Marcus asked her find out the fees for speakers and materials. Glenn said he loved the idea of doing something on universal design that would include the whole community. He asked if there were speakers that could do this. He said this may also create interest in this commission. Annemarie asked if outreach in the schools would be within our area. Could we do something for the kids in school? Marcus thought Morgan might be a good resource for this question and idea, asking if this would be something like we did with the beach mats with the BPW.

Annemarie shared that she was looking at ways to make the commission more known. Marcus said this would make us more visible and known by a broader group. Eleanor expressed concern that if we didn't meet until April whether there would be enough time this year to do this and to do it well.

VI. MEMBER'S COMMENTS: Glenn asked if there was any follow up to the town hall accessibility study. Marcus said we are waiting for the report. Eleanor said Angie is working on this.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT: Eleanor said this was on there so we could decide the process and limits for this so we were clear. Marcus said we should give people five minutes to speak.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE: Glenn moved the date of Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Pam seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Pam moved that we adjourn at 6:42 p.m., with Glenn seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Secretary