

# Fairhaven Commission on Disability

## Meeting November 29, 2017 at the Fairhaven Council on Aging

**Present:** Marcus Ferro, Donna Lavallee, Ronnie Medina, Charlie Murphy, Mark Rees, Brian Rego, Anne Silvia, and Maria Walker

**Absent:** Trina Bigham, Joe Borelli, Waldemar DeOliviers, Maria DeOliviera, Ronnie Medina, Mark Rees, Diane Rocha

**I Open Meeting** 6:45 pm

**II Review last meeting minutes 09-20-2017:** Donna Lavallee moved to approve minutes, Anne Silvia seconded. All voted in favor.

### III Treasurers report:

- Anne Silvia reported that the sign language class is ongoing and well attended. A second set of classes, building on this semester, is planned for later spring. The cost of \$ 400.00 dollars was moved to be carried by the Commission on Disability by Brian Rego, Maria seconded. All voted in favor. In the fall of 2018, a new set of classes for beginners is planned to be offered. The cost of upcoming classes will be discussed and voted on at the next Commission on Disability meeting.
- “Sand for Seniors” is cancelled this year due to problems finding volunteers to deliver and refill the buckets. The group who helped the last two winters has graduated from Northeast Maritime Institute and no new volunteers have been found. If many demands come in, the Commission on Disability will reach out to Lions and Rotary to ask if they can assist.
- Ann will submit the Commission on Disability budget report for the year.
- Brian Rego moved that the treasure report is approved, Maria seconded, all voted in favor.

### IV Town Information:

- Mark reported that the Town Hall is now fully accessible and most entrances are outfitted with automatic door openers. This has been possible through a \$ 15,000 grant from the Capital Community Preservation Act. There are a few more areas of Town Hall that are planned to be made accessible, no final date.
- Mark also reported that a Public Facilities Accessibility Plan for Fairhaven is under discussion, setting a long-term plan for accessibility for all publicly owned buildings in town.

### V Old Business:

- Nothing new to report.
- New Commission member Marcus Ferro attended the meeting – Welcome!

### VI New Business:

- **Commission on Disability involvement in the Town master Plan:** Charlie Murphy attended the latest public meeting and voiced wishes to prioritize accessibility.
- **Disaster Preparedness Presentations:** A meeting was held with around 30 attendees. Everyone was able to bring home an Emergency Backpack. This year the focus was on persons with disabilities.
- **Sign language class:** Robbie Martin, who is deaf, has offered to hold the classes. He works for New Bedford School District. 15 persons have signed up and there is still a waiting list. Classes will start on October 11 at 6 pm and will be presented as an 8 week program. Possibly a new class will be offered in February. Donna Lavallee suggested that an evaluation be done, to see how the class is received.

- **Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) update:** Charlie shared information about a vote in Congress about changes to the ADA. A letter from the Commission on Disability in Worcester and an overview of the concerns are attached). For more MOD information and their calendar, visit [www.mass.gov/mod](http://www.mass.gov/mod).
- **Joseph Bates House** on 191 Main Street in Fairhaven has been approved a variance from by the Architectural Access Board with the condition to provide a video on their first floor that presents the second floor. No handicap access to the second floor is planned at this time (Copy attached)
- **Remote participation and vote:** Charlie shared information confirming the possibility for all Local Commission on Disability to partake in meetings and vote remotely (information attached).

**VII Next Meeting Date:** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 6.30 pm at the Fairhaven Council on Aging.

**IX Closing comments and adjournment:** No further business. Brian Rego motioned to adjourn, Marcus Ferro seconded, all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted Maria Walker