

# FAIRHAVEN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes October 2, 2019

Meeting held at Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven

Contact: cod@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Present:** Charles Murphy (Chairperson), Mark Rees (ADA Coordinator), Kelly Smith (Treasurer), Maria Ruedlinger Walker (Secretary), Joseph Borelli, Donna Lavallee, Brian Rego, Diane Rocha  
**Absent:** Trina Bringham (Vice Chairperson), Marcus Ferro, and Ronald J. Medina

## I. OPEN MEETING 6.48 pm

Chairman Charles Murphy opened the meeting.

The Commission on Disability (CoD) is from this meeting on meeting at Fairhaven Housing Authority, 275 Main Street, in the community room.

## II. REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Meeting on June 12, 2019. Kelly Smith motioned to accept minutes; Joseph Borelli seconded. All voted in favor, last meeting's minutes accepted.

## III. a) NEW TREASURER

Kelly Smith has offered to take the position of treasurer for the CoD. Mark Rees move to nominate Kelly Smith for the Treasurer position, Maria Ruedlinger Walker seconded. Kelly Smith was unanimously voted to take the position of Treasurer for the CoD.

## b) TREASURER'S REPORT

The CoD current budget balance is \$1.250. Joseph Borelli moved to accept the budget, Brian Rego seconded. All voted in favor, the budget was accepted.

## IV. TOWN INFORMATION

Deferred from IV. Town Information to VIII. Status on Disability Issues in Town.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

1. There is a new handicap parking spot at the Union Wharf, complete with painted lines and a sign.
2. To have full membership for the Commission on Disability, we are looking to add a new member. The position will be posted at upcoming Selectmen's meetings.
3. Maria Ruedlinger Walker brought up the situation of meetings having to be rescheduled on short notice when Charlie Murphy in the role of Chairperson can not attend. Our Vice Chairperson Trina Bingham has unfortunately not been able to attend CoD meetings lately. Charlie Murphy will ask Trina Bingham if she wants to stay on the CoD in her role as Vice Chairperson.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Charlie Murphy reported that on September 19, MoLife hosted the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) for the event Achieving Access in the Community.
2. Mark Reese reported that the town is doing work on Hedge Street, to reach compliance with ADA. See attachment.

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3. Kelly Smith will contact Anne Silvia about future sign language classes, since she has been the contact person for previous classes. Kelly Smith moved to approved funding for future sign language classes. Maria Ruedlinger Walker seconded. All voted in favor.
4. It is proposed that the CoD authorize Mark Reese in his role as Town Administrator to approve expenditure of the CoD as approved by the commission. Kelly Smith move to approve this proposal, Brian Rego seconded. All voted I favor.
5. Guest speaker Noah Brine shared an invitation to attend an informal meeting, open to the public, on "Spectrum", a non-profit organization Noah is building up, which will focus on providing advocacy for persons with disabilities. Noah Brine can be reached at [brine.noah1@gmail.com](mailto:brine.noah1@gmail.com) .

**VII. THE NEXT MEETING** will be held on December 18 @ 6.30 pm, at the Fairhaven Housing Authority, 275 Main Street, in the community room.

#### **VIII. STATUS ON DISABILITY ISSUES IN TOWN**

- a) Handicap accessibility plan will be presented to the Selectboard by the Town Architect to possibly be able to present at the upcoming Special Town Meeting on November 12. Diane Rocha mentioned that residents in Fairhaven Housing have commented on the huge difference the new accessibility features at Town Hall have made for them.
- b) Kelly Smith will assist the town in applying for a grant to update the Discrimination Policy and Accessibility Handbook for Fairhaven, as well as funding for a handicap and accessibility study. This could possibly lead to further accessibility improvements in town.

#### **IX. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNEMNT**

No other business to discuss. Kelly Smith moved to adjourn; Diane Rocha seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned @ 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Ruedlinger Walker