



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2023 6:30 P.M.

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Received by Town Clerk
April 23, 2024 2:38pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: LAUREN SHRESTHA, JEFFRY BRAND, JILL SUSARREY, VIRGINIA ZELLER,

MEMBERS ABSENT: JEFFREY BLONDER

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS ABSENT: MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, SELECT BOARD LIAISON

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

B. VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES

- The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

C. DISCUSSION/UPDATES REGARDING PRIORITIES/INITIATIVES

- Virginia Zeller discussed her correspondence back and forth (via email) with Suzanne Wright, Chair of the School Building Committee. Suzanne said that Universal Design was a priority when designing the new Swampscott Elementary School, and she explained that the current design in place has the classrooms and cafeteria equipped with light-speed amplification systems as well as microphones in each room to be used by the teachers so hard of hearing students can hear via headsets. Virginia Zeller responded to Suzanne that while the amplification is a great feature in the new school, the headsets will not work for profoundly deaf individuals, or those with a Cochlear Implant (Virginia notes she is deaf and wears a hearing aid in one ear and has a Cochlear Implant). Virginia asked Suzanne to look into adding the Loop System (audio-frequency induction loops - AFIL) to the new school. Suzanne responded to Virginia that she would discuss adding the AFIL system with the new school's design team and tech director.
- Jeffrey Brand said he is still waiting to hear back from Gino in regard to adding benches on some of the hiking/walking trails in town.
- Lauren Shrestha said she still needs to reach out to Marzie Galazka, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Town of Swampscott, to discuss fencing in the new playground "addition" at Abbott Park.

Upon motion, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 06:30 P.M.

True Attest,

Lauren Shrestha, Secretary, Commission on Disability