



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 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 most recent correspondence (via email) with Suzanne Wright, Chair of the School Building Committee. Suzanne said that she received a response back from their consultant, 3Si, who said that although the new Swampscott Elementary School will not have a full-room loop solution, the large group spaces (i.e. Gymnasium and Cafeteria/Platform space) will be equipped with Listen Technologies assisted listening systems. Listen Technologies assisted listening systems work by using a combination of transmitters located in the AV racks with body-pack receivers available to those that are hard of hearing (the receivers owned in contract have over the ear headphones) - users will have to plug a neck loop into the Listen Technologies receiver so the programming can be sent to their neck loop. 3Si said that if the school would like to have some neck loops on hand for those that do not have their own equipment then they can be purchased for the Listen Technologies system (MSRP of \$93.00 each), but they noted that in their experience, many users that require neck loops typically have their own neck loop equipment. 3Si also said that the school's instructional spaces will be fitted with Classroom Speech Reinforcement Systems. Classroom Speech Reinforcement Systems have a design that is based upon the Lightspeed Topcat system (a wireless system which includes a wireless media connector as part of the system) - this wireless media connector allows for the connection of input sources (computer, etc.) as well as an having an output connection to allow a connection directly to an individual's personal body pack - allowing for all instructional audio (teacher/student speech as well as AV presentation) to be sent directly to the individual's personal system. Virginia also asked Suzanne about the prevalence and availability of closed captioning in the new school. Suzanne said that closed captioning is already available on school Zoom and Teams meetings, and if there is a deaf or hard of hearing student, accommodations are usually built into the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) along with access to augmented tech, an ASL interpreter, subtitles on presentations, and any other means to ensure the student is receiving an equal level of education as their peers.

- Jeffrey Brand said that he was able to connect with Gino Cresta Jr. (Director of Public Works and Assistant Town Administrator, Operations for the Town of Swampscott) in regard to adding benches to some of the hiking/walking trails in town. Gino said that the benches are very costly so funding this project is now the main issue. Jeffrey discussed this issue of cost with the other COD members who suggested he reach out to Swampscott High School to see if they had any students who might be interested in building the benches as part of a woodworking project, the committee members also suggested reaching out to local boy scout packs to see if they might be interested in building the benches. It was also suggested by other COD members that grants be explored as a means to fund the purchasing of the benches - Jeffrey said he will explore this option further and report back his findings at the next COD meeting. The idea of moving existing memorial benches to the trails will not be pursued at this time.
- Lauren Shrestha said that she has been in contact (via email) with Marzie Galazka, Director of Community and Economic Development for the Town of Swampscott, to discuss fencing in the new playground "addition" at Abbott Park. Marzie said that she and Gino Cresta Jr. (Director of Public Works and Assistant Town Administrator, Operations for the Town of Swampscott) are pricing out fencing and gate options, and they will reach back out to Lauren once they have proposals for her to review.

Upon motion, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 07:13 P.M.

True Attest,

Lauren Shrestha, Secretary, Commission on Disability