



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2022 6:00 P.M.

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

MEMBERS PRESENT: JEFFREY S. BLONDER, JEFFRY BRAND, DEBORA NEWMAN, JILL SUSARREY, VIRGINIA R. ZELLER, CYNTHIA J. CAVALLARO

MEMBERS ABSENT: CAROLINA VELASQUEZ

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

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

B. NEW AND OLD BUSINESS (POSSIBLE ACTION/VOTES OF THE COMMISSION)

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The commission voted unanimously to approve minutes for the November 14, 2022 meeting

b. CHANGE IN PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

- Chair Newman advocated for changing the wording of the public comment announcement in future agendas, as well as moving public comment to the end of the agenda. There was no objection from the commission members present.

c. "DID YOU KNOW?" CAMPAIGN

- Several possible logos were presented, none of which met full approval by the commission. A draft based on feedback will be presented at a future meeting.
- Proposed first subject for the town newsletter regarding awareness of resources available to assist with navigating communications challenges with first responders.

d. DISCUSSION OF GOALS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Ms. Cavallaro reminded the commission of previous work done to get tools into police cruisers and other emergency vehicles to aid first responders in a situation involving a person unable to communicate verbally. She will check with Swampscott Police and Fire Departments to see if they still have those tools available.
- Opportunities for collaboration with Lynn Commission on Disability and Essex County Community Org may arise soon, members will report back in more detail at a future meeting.
- Town website, Commission on Disability social media presence need to be evaluated for accessibility, and information more widely distributed. Ms. Newman presented an extensive list of resources.
- Trash issues discussed, including a proposal to advocate for waivers to use plastic bags instead of bins.
- Need to partner with other groups within town, such as the Board of Health, Harbor and Waterfront also discussed.
- Ms. Cavallero introduced herself to the commission, as she was absent at the previous meeting.

Upon motion, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 6:50 P.M.

TRUE ATTEST,

Jill Susarrey, Secretary, Commission on Disability

APPROVED BY THE SWAMPSCOTT COMMISSION ON DISABILITY JANUARY 9, 2023