

February 9, 2021 Commission on Disabilities Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Megan Baker

Diane DeNapoli (chair)

Stephanie Gertz

SCPO Keith Jermyn, USN

Maria O'Laughlin

- Call to Order

Diane DeNapoli called the meeting to order at 7:16 then she read the open meeting law

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

- Public Comments
No public comments

- Review meeting notes from 1/12/ 21

Maria motioned to accept the minutes, Stephanie seconded, unanimously approved

- What's the news? A brief summary of activities related to the COD that occurred since our last COD meeting. Topics include, but are not limited to, updates on parking tickets, Town Meeting, email, website upgrade.

Diane has monthly call with mary

Focus is access to town meeting, and town business

Town website is just compliant, it meets the bare minimum

Live transcription can be a big help, but it's not yet used regularly

It turns out that the websites for the town has a separate system from the library which is completely different from the school. So 3 systems will need to be updated. We have started the preliminary research. Diane and Megan are taking the lead on the website vendors. They hope to identify 3 different vendors.

Stephanie will look into what the state Commission recommends on website.

We had a long discussion on Town Meeting accessibility issues. Diane will follow-up with the HS to see if it would be possible to use the school for the "accessibility" section. This

would solve bathroom access, mobility, and technology issues (the internet connection is stronger inside).

- Review draft By- laws
- Unanimously approved, Keith will send to town council
 - Commission vs. Committee
- We are a commission
- - Scope of our work as a board
 - We're not here to measure ramps but here to advise the town
 -
 - Board member roles/ titles
 - Megan secretary
 - Note-taking at meetings will rotate
 - Stephanie vice-chair
 - Unanimously approved
- - Outside communication (email, website, phone number, social media)
We disc having one "CoD" email that will be monitored by Megan & Diane.
Megan will draft our Facebook page, Diane will draft our town webpage
- Information not discussed known 24 hours before the meeting
Keith forwarded information regarding a webinar (details below) that Megan will attend.

Please join us as we discuss services and resources for individuals who have difficulty hearing and speaking over the telephone. This webinar will allow you to become familiar with services available for individuals in your community who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or who have difficulty speaking on the telephone. Hamilton Relay provides telecommunications relay services for the state of Massachusetts including TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Spanish and CapTel®.

- Next meeting date
- March 3/9
- Adjourn at 8:45