

Remote Meeting via Zoom

**In attendance:** Chair, Stephanie Gertz; Vice-Chair, Diane DeNapoli; Secretary, Megan Baker; Member, Mike Clancy; SCPO Keith Jermyn; Member-at-Large, Sharon Allen. **Absent:** Maria OLaughlin.

**Guests in Attendance:** None. **Participating Remotely:** David West and Meghan Dufresne of IHCDesign.

### 1. Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Gertz called the meeting to order and read the Open Meeting Law statement. The Town of Hingham is recording the meeting.

### 2. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

### 3. Good & Welfare

Chair Gertz thanked Maria OLaughlin for serving the Commission on Disabilities these past two years. Although she is not present this evening, we know she will continue to follow what we've been doing.

Secretary, Megan Baker's term will be renewed at the July Select Board meeting.

There will be new members joining in July. If members know of someone who would be a good candidate, ask them to fill out a Talent Bank Application on the Town web site.

Chair Gertz congratulated member, SCPO Keith Jermyn, on his retirement from the Navy. She thanked him for his continued service to the Commission on Disabilities.

At 7:10 pm, Sharon Allen joined the meeting.

**Special Olympics** - Sharon Allen attended with her family and reported differently-abled people from all 50 United States were represented as well as people from the Caribbean Islands. Athletic opportunities were provided for people who don't always get that opportunity. Health benefits were provided to the underserved such as dental screening, vision exams, hearing, and orthopedic issues. Many people received hearing aids and glasses. People of many different skin colors worked together unitedly which doesn't necessarily happen in their own countries. At no cost, Disney opened its gates for the athletes to visit Magic Kingdom. Animal Kingdom opened its gates to the athletes and their families. It was an opportunity to see the sheer joy as people received something they never imagined in their wildest dreams. Members agreed the experience is incredibly moving and wonderful.

### 4. Review April and May Minutes

**MOTION:** Diane DeNapoli motioned to approve the April and May 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Keith Jermyn.

**Vote:** All in favor: (Stephanie Gertz, aye; Megan Baker, aye; Mike Clancy, aye; Diane DeNapoli, aye; Keith Jermyn, aye). None opposed. Roll-Call-Vote: 5-0-0

### 5. Set Meeting Dates for Next Calendar Year

Chair Gertz suggested the second Wednesday of the month. This discussion will be revisited when new members join as well as re-reviewed before next summer to see if the second Wednesday will still work.

## 6. Outside Accessibility consultants (IHCDesign) Presentation to Town of Hingham

David West presented the ADA Self-evaluation & Transition Plan work done by IHCDesign for Hingham and invited questions from members.

IHCDesign stands for the Institute of Human Centered Design. They provide technical assistance for accessibility and compliance.

- The work they're doing with Hingham is called Title II, the ADA Act for State and Local government responsibility based on the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- IHCDesign views the Federal ADA mandate as the bare minimum of what needs to be done.
- The most comprehensive mandate with infrastructure to support voluntary compliance
- The overarching goals are equal participation and equal benefit for people with disabilities.
- One very important element is the **Integrated Setting Requirement** which reads:  
"A public entity shall administer services, programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities." 35.150d

Meghan Dufresne introduced the "**Program Accessibility Standard**":

- Each program, service, and activity must be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Policies and practices must be in place to provide equal opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in programs.
- Modifications should be made to policies if they result in discrimination of people with disabilities.
- Accessibility of programs includes physical access to spaces.
- The basis for the Town's Self-Evaluation are the 2010 ADA standards, and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Guidelines. 521 CMR
- IHCD is evaluating 10 Town buildings, 6 schools, and 17 recreational facilities, and a GIS sidewalk survey for two areas of Hingham.
- They'll provide a Draft ADA Transition Plan recommending corrective action and timeline for barriers to people with disabilities.
- The Town would share the Draft with the community and there would be an on-line public forum.

IHCD entertained questions from members of the Commission on Disabilities.

- This summer IHCD will submit to the Town a draft of changes they see necessary.
- Ms. DeNapoli requested the GIS survey site location list.
- IHCD clarified language used in the Program Accessibility Standard on Slide 9.

IHCD expressed thanks to the Town Offices and Art Robert for the interruptions and inconvenience for IHCD to obtain information and access to facilities. They encouraged the Town to notify the public of progress as corrective action is accomplished so citizens are aware of increased accessibility.

## 7. Update on Current Projects:

### a. July 4th Parade

Ms. DeNapoli reported the Parade is on Monday.

- The CoD has secured F4 spot. Members should arrive no later than 9:15 am.
- Members discussed whether to purchase candy to hand out to parade watchers.
- Citing safety concerns, members decided not to give candy to parade watchers.

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- Members discussed having a promotional item (pencil, toothbrush, flag) for next year that would promote awareness to citizens of the Commission on Disabilities and their mission.
- Ms. Allen suggested handing out the Emergency Forms.
- Ms. DeNapoli suggested members send friends an e-mail to march with the CoD.

**b. CoD Funding (need a Treasurer)**

The Chair asked if a member would be willing to volunteer to fulfill the role. Ms. DeNapoli listed the scope of responsibility for a CoD Treasurer:

- Submit an expense report to the Town after an event using the appropriate account code
- Maintain a running tally of the balance in the CoD fund to be shared at the monthly meeting
- Fulfill the role of CoD liaison to the TAC group

**c. HP Parking Downtown**

Ms. DeNapoli said there is progress downtown for an HP parking van spot between the men's zone and the clothing store on the corner. She thanked member, Mike Clancy, as well as everyone at the Department of Public Works. The spot should be finished by July 6th.

When the parking spot is complete, Chair Gertz suggested arranging a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Downtown Association to bring attention to the spot. It would be good publicity for everyone.

12. Next meeting date will be Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm. CoD will not meet in August.

The following agenda items will be considered at the next meeting:

7. Update on Current Projects:
  - d. Trustees of the Bathing Beach update
  - e. Exceptional Needs Registration status
8. Introduce Aileen Walsh, Hingham Police Dept's new full-time Community Crisis Response Clinician
9. Community calls
10. New projects
  - a. Voting access
  - b. Mobile bathrooms
11. Information not known 24 hours before the meeting

**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sharon Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Seconded by Diane DeNapoli.

**Vote:** All in favor: (Stephanie Gertz, aye; Sharon Allen, aye; Megan Baker, aye; Mike Clancy, aye; Diane DeNapoli, aye; Keith Jermyn, aye). None opposed. Roll-Call-Vote: 6-0-0

**Meeting Materials used:**

ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan for Commission on Disabilities, Hingham, Massachusetts

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale Michaud, Recording Secretary