

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:** None.

Guests in Attendance: Jane McGrath. **Participating Remotely:** Everyone.

1. Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m., Chair Gertz called the meeting to order and read the Open Meeting Law statement. No one is recording the meeting but the Town of Hingham.

2. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

3. Good & Welfare

Chair Gertz shared will start a new job this week. There were no other comments from members.

4. Update on New Members

Chair Gertz welcomed new CoD member, Jane McGrath, who was sworn in by the Select Board but needs to complete onboarding.

5. Review June Minutes

MOTION: Sharon Allen motioned to approve the June 2022 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Keith Jermyn.

Vote: All in favor: (Stephanie Gertz, aye; Megan Baker, aye; Sharon Allen, aye; Mike Clancy, aye; Keith Jermyn, aye). None opposed. Diane DeNapoli abstained as she had not read the minutes.

Roll-Call-Vote: 5-0-1. Motion carries.

6. Introduce Aileen Walsh, Hingham Police Department's new full-time Community Crisis Response Clinician

Ms. Walsh said members may phone or e-mail her at walsha@hpd.org.

- Her position is a new one.
- She can do any follow-ups with officers, and post-suicide follow-ups.
- She has been a crisis clinician most of her career.
- She can come out and evaluate whether someone should go to the Emergency Room.
- The idea is that she can get them services in their home versus going to the ER.
- She was the Program Director for the Crisis Team at the hospital and the volume was extensive.
- Wait times at the ER are horrendous. We try not to send children there.
- She has been working with South Shore Collaborative and the schools to make those decisions.
- She could be helpful in doing follow-ups, outreach, or phone calls. She is willing to do anything.
- She can co-respond with the Police which allows her to get into the home.

Chair Gertz expressed appreciation that the Town is providing this incredible service to the community. We hear of situations with folks with stinging behavior that the Police might not recognize and then the situation turns unnecessarily violent without a trained person on the ground.

She invited Ms. Walsh to view the CoD web page which Megan Baker has been fronting as an effort to make the CoD web page a helpful resource.

- Ms. Walsh agreed her contact information could be added to the CoD web page.
- Ms. Walsh will become the 911 for social work in Hingham. She wants to build relationships.
- She has been training Police for 7 years.
- She will look for opportunities to improve herself and social workers to understand complex cases.

Ms. DeNapoli asked Ms. Walsh to describe her work with Ms. Sullivan, the schools, and Board of Health.

Ms. Walsh explained:

- She is a first responder to the Police who may phone her in the middle of the night for consult.
- Police officers send detailed reports to her and follow-up with her.
- She triages each situation, accompanies Police to see what is going on, then determines which town and providers need to be involved.
- The process is the same with the Board of Health. She is the front-line person and does triage.
- If the situation is a major mental health issue with service needs, Jill Sullivan would be the front-line person.
- When you call 911 for a crisis, this generates a Police response as well as Ms. Walsh.
- Most of the crisis calls are for teenagers in crisis.
- She does keep track of her data: how many Veterans, how many people need addiction services.

Ms. DeNapoli suggested it would be great for the Town to have a flow chart so people know what to do. When should they go on-line versus call 911, when to go to Boston Children's Hospital or Mass General Hospital. She suggested having a cross-town discussion about mental health in the Fall.

Mr. Jermyn asked if Ms. Walsh has met CoD liaison, Officer Dan Murphy. She has not been introduced.

Ms. Allen asked Ms. Walsh if she connects with specific Police officers who are trained in areas such as domestic abuse. Ms. Walsh said she is not sure if 100% of Police officers are trained in crisis intervention. She believes 100% are first aid trained in mental health. She often goes out with the Sergeant, the Lieutenant, or Officer Lisa McCracken, but not specific Police officers.

7. Community Calls

Ms. Gertz received a call from someone who needed housing due to discrimination over their dogs. She felt the individual needed the legal advice of an attorney.

The other call was an inquiry of what resources the CoD could recommend for elementary schools.

Ms. DeNapoli asked how SEPAC would fit in.

Ms. Allen suggested the CoD reach out to the new Superintendent of Schools to see what resources the CoD could provide. New CoD member, Jane McGrath, and Chair Gertz will contact the Superintendent and report to CoD at the next meeting.

Mr. Jermyn cited the Massachusetts Law regarding trained dogs for emotional support to the disabled. He suggested adding some information to the CoD web site about this resource.

Ms. DeNapoli took a call from a disabled person who needed to go to court but required very specific accommodations. She contacted the ADA Coordinator at the courthouse in behalf of the caller.

Members discussed which information resources to list on the CoD web site.

Chair Gertz asked members to familiarize themselves with the CoD web site and recommend suggestions at the next meeting.

8. Committee will take a vote in accordance with MGL c30A s 20(e) (CoD needs to vote to retain the option of meeting remotely)

The Legislature has said that as of 7/14/22 we are no longer allowed to conduct remote meetings. The Commission on Disabilities is an exception. We are allowed to conduct remote meetings as long as one member is at the Town offices where the public could go to view the meeting in person.

MOTION: Ms. DeNapoli motioned to allow the Town of Hingham to authorize remote participation generally for all Commission on Disabilities meetings in accordance with provisions *M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(e) and 940 CMR 29.10(2)(g) in addition to any remote participation authorized under any other or special law.* Seconded by Sharon Allen.

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

9. Updates on current projects:

a. July 4th Parade

Chair Gertz thanked Ms. DeNapoli for organizing the parade as well as Mr. Jermyn for providing flags, and Ms. McGrath for distributing flags. The children were very excited to receive the flags.

b. CoD funding

The fund balance should be noted in the minutes as of July 13 or a previous date. Ms. Allen offered to accept the role of Treasurer if there is no ethics conflict. Chair Gertz will contact the Town to confirm whether there would be a conflict of interest with Ms. Allen's school position. Mr. Clancy offered to assist, on occasion, if she requires assistance.

c. HP parking downtown

Chair Gertz is so pleased with the finished downtown, handicapped spot. She thanked Ms. DeNapoli for spearheading and following through to make sure the handicapped spot came to be. There are a lot of folks to thank for their amazing, hard work to make this happen: the Department of Public Works, the Downtown Association, Art Roberts, Tom Mayo, **Mike Clancy**.

Chair Gertz would like to celebrate everyone's hard work at a ribbon-cutting dedication July 19 at 10:00 am at the handicapped spot near Zona Brothers Barber Shop, 8 Main Street. The Hingham Anchor does not plan to send a photographer. Ms. DeNapoli will write a draft public relations piece. CoD members will take a photo of the parking spot to send to the Anchor.

Ms. DeNapoli thanked Mr. Clancy and all who worked on the spot for the wonderful and creative brick work and making the parking spot an unusual space that will benefit people.

Members discussed taking just 15 minutes for the ceremony conscious that there is a union dispute. They will avoid crossing any picket line if there is a demonstration. Otherwise, they discussed who will speak at the event, what tokens of appreciation to hand out.

Ms. Allen commended Ms. DeNapoli: "Diane, you helped create a spot that creates independence going forward and that is huge, huge to many people. As they say, if you build it, they will come. You helped make it more possible for people to get downtown to shop, do local things, get out there and be part of their community. It's huge."

Chair Gertz agreed. This town is not going to survive if handicapped folks can only shop on-line.

Chair Gertz asked what vision members want to convey at the ribbon-cutting event.

Ms. DeNapoli suggested using the event to start a springboard conversation about the survey. The handicapped spot is an example of work the CoD can accomplish when departments collaborate and promote the survey and the organization. This would be a good opportunity to explain why the parking spot looks different than other handicapped spots. Things are moving forward with the survey and the transition plan.

- d. Trustees of the Bathing Beach update (Diane) **This item will be discussed at a future meeting.**
- e. Exceptional Needs Registration status (Megan) **This item will be discussed at a future meeting.**

10. New projects/priority setting (These items will be discussed at a future meeting.)

- a. Voting access
- b. Mobile bathrooms
- c. 360 form data

11. Information not known 24 hours before the meeting

Chair Gertz emailed members an invitation link from the Police department for a golf tournament to be held August 22nd. CoD will benefit from a portion of the proceeds. Tickets for the dinner are \$75 per person. There will be a raffle. She encouraged members to attend. Ms. DeNapoli thanked Officer Murphy for considering the CoD. CoD will promote the event on Facebook.

Ms. DeNapoli wished Chair Gertz a happy birthday which was July 12.

12. Next steps/ Next meeting date

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 pm, probably via Zoom.

Members previously discussed meeting monthly on the second Wednesday of the month. Members will decide the date going forward at each meeting out of consideration for one another.

13. Adjourn

MOTION: Sharon Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 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. Motion carries.

Meeting Materials used

None.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Michaud, Recording Secretary