

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES MINUTES

October 7, 2019

Present: Members, Pat Hart, Ronnie Gullette, Grethe Kaeselau, Bill Savicki

Guests, Tom Sisson/DPW, Brenda Vazquez/ADA Coordinator, COA

Meeting called to order at 9:34AM

Minutes of September 9, 2019 reviewed and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report

No report available.

Old Business

Brenda reported that the ADA Transition Plan has been completed and is now available for public review. It is posted on the Town's website. Hardcopies will be placed at the Town Hall and the COA. Brenda requested that the Advisory Committee on Disabilities (ACD) read the Plan and recommend priorities for implementation and provide advocacy for identified projects. Brenda also announced that she will be attending the October 8, 2019 Selectmen's meeting to discuss "age-friendly" issues for Dennis and present information on the Independence Pathway Plan. She asked the ACD to support a public hearing about the Plan and to encourage public attendance.

Grethe gave an update on the upcoming "Living with Difference" presentations. Scheduled for October 22nd at the Ezra Baker school and on October 24th at the Wixon school. Have contacted potential speakers including Katelynne Steinke (who spoke at the Service Dog training in June 2019), students from Project Forward, and an individual with Asperger's. Also, a Dennis police officer will talk

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about bullying. Have invited representatives from the DYEAF (who provided grant for purchase of Rescue and Jessica books) as well as bookseller who purchased copies for us. Possibility of one presentation being videotaped by Town. Pat and Grethe to finalize handouts. Grethe needs to know which ACD members plan to attend so she can add names to list for schools.

Grethe, Ronnie, and Brenda attended the Town's volunteer recognition breakfast on October 3rd.

New Business

Bill distributed a newspaper article from the Boston Herald about service dogs.

Grethe reported on a request from Town Hall to visit several possible sites for a new Precinct #2. This precinct normally votes at the COA, but is temporarily unavailable due to construction. On October 1st Grethe and Pat accompanied Terri Bunce/Town Clerk and representatives from CORD (Cathy Taylor and Ashley ?) to Grace Church, Jacob Sears Library, Carlton Hall, and two rooms at Town Hall to determine ADA compliance. Findings will be presented at a Selectman's meeting for final determination.

Ronnie announced that Mayflower Place Assisted Living facility has a handicapped accessible pool available for public use. Will look for other similar resources.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM.

Next meeting scheduled for November 4, 2019 at 9:30AM at DPW facility.