



BARNSTABLE DISABILITY COMMISSION

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Officers
Raye Kaddy, Chair
Linda Cook, Vice Chair
William Cole, ADA
Tammy Cunningham, Secretary/Treasurer

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Members and Advisors
Patricia Andres
Jim Berks
Jean Boyle
Merrill Blunt
Anne Mazzola
Al Melcher
Sheila Mulcahy
Ann Canedy, Council Liaison

BARNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 16 2012
11:30:20

BARNSTABLE DISABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 16, 2012

Minutes

11:30 a.m.

Barnstable Senior Center, Route 28 Hyannis, MA 02601

ATTENDEES: Raye Kaddy, Chair, Linda Cook, Vice Chair, Pat Andres, Jim Berks, Jean Boyle, Ann Canedy, Town Councilor/Council Liaison, Anne Mazzola, Tammy Cunningham, Treasurer/Secretary. Also Present: Dick Andres, resident.

Meeting called to order at 11:32 A.M.

Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of April 18, 2012: Linda Cook moved to approve, Jim Berks seconded.

Update on the Complaint Procedure:

Tammy Cunningham stated she had not had the opportunity to discuss with the Director of Human Resources and investigate how complaints are handled within other divisions and departments. Tammy Cunningham was asked to report back to the Commission concerning this matter next month.

Finance Report:

Tammy Cunningham provided a copy of the current net income statement along with a new spreadsheet outlining and identifying expenditures within the fiscal year. The Commission thanked Tammy for her work and asked if she would also incorporate at the bottom of the page, anticipated expenditures which have yet to be expended from the budget. The purpose of the additional information would be to properly forecast the budget and provide continuity.

Access Report:

Jean Boyle discussed the access surveys. She suggested not conducting surveys alone and added, if anyone has a problem with their assignment to let her know. Jean and Linda will be conducting access surveys at the libraries.

A discussion was then held on beach access. Councilor Canedy suggested placement of a beach chair at Millway beach. A discussion was then held on the difficulty in accessing the beach due to the steep incline, the permitting process, and beach erosion. It was suggested placing a lift off of the ramp recently built. Jean Boyle was going to contact Mark Ells to discuss the matter.

It was stated Mobi Mat chose to place a test mat at South Cape Beach in Mashpee rather than Craigville Beach in Centerville. Chair Kaddy and Jean Boyle commented they had each emailed Patti Machado concerning various items concerning accessibility and the beaches. They did receive a response from Patti Machado stating she was overwhelmed with the busy season upon her. Commission members commented they feel it is not their responsibility to lead these types of project, but rather to collaborate with Town departments. Chair Kaddy stated she invited Patti Machado to today's meeting.

Chair Kaddy commented on how much work is done in conducting the surveys and asked that Members consider for next year if they would like to change the process, if at all.

The Commission discussed sending a congratulatory letter to establishments who make modifications to their establishments to improve accessibility. Hyannis Golf Course is currently in the process of making the necessary modifications to their establishment.

Jean Boyle discussed the current status of the dining guide project. Elizabeth Spilsbury has completed 20 surveys and she has received overwhelmingly positive response. In discussions with Ms. Spilsbury, she feels she can complete 41 establishments. The Commission is hopeful the dining guide will be available for fall. There is a deadline of June 1st for the surveys. There are approximately 24 more establishments who are willing to participate.

Ms. Spilsbury is a part time employee working for the Main Street BID who is conducting the dining guide surveys of dining establishments. Ms. Spilsbury will be submitting her time sheet to Ms. Wurfain who will then send forward to the Disability Commission for payment.

Discussion on portable potties. The Commission voted to once again place accessible portable potties at area beaches. Jean Boyle was going to contact Bouse House for a price and order. Pat Andres moved to approve allocating \$2000 towards the expense of accessible portable potties from Memorial Day through Labor Day, Jim Berks seconded.

A letter was sent to the Audubon Society some time ago, however, a reply and information has not been received. Jim Berks passed around photographs to illustrate the modifications they will be making to the Long Pasture Visitor Center.

A discussion was held about Project Smile and surf chairs. A copy of a letter from Project Smile was passed out to Members. Councilor Canedy was going to research Project Smile and the donation of beach chairs. Seagull Beach will be receiving the first chair.

Report on 911:

Merrill Blum was unable to attend today's meeting.

Report on Scholarship recipients:

Linda Cook provided an update on scholarships. Two scholarships were granted to 2nd year students of Project Forward at Cape Cod Community College. One scholarship is given to Sturgis Charter School and Barnstable High School. Linda Cook will be providing scholarship recipient information upon receipt.

Office report and communications:

Slate of officers will be voted on during next months meeting. Merrill Blume is running for President. The position of Vice President is still open.

Five Commission members have registered for the monitor training being held in June.

Jeff Dougan and Dan Wood were sent certificates of appreciation for their work with the Disability commission.

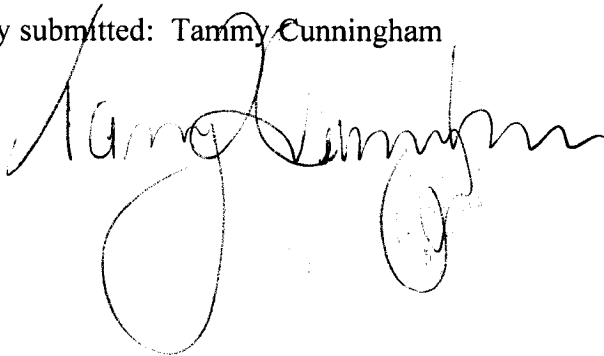
Linda Cook was going to send the finalized By – Laws with the Commission name change to Councilor Canedy. Councilor Canedy was going to forward to Legal for their review. Until final authorization has been given, the BDC must continue to use their existing name.

A brief discussion was held on the requirement for public pools to provide lifts.

Chair Kaddy asked Linda Cook to send members the email discussing boards and commissions and emails. Councilor Canedy provided background on the matter.

Meeting adjourned at 1: 07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Tammy Cunningham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Cunningham', with a large, stylized flourish at the bottom.

Gilbert, Deborah

From: rkaddy@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 1:33 PM
To: Gilbert, Deborah
Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Wheelchair Accessible Tours

Hello Deb,
 Please, include this e-mail with the May 16th agenda to be sent out to Commission on Disabilities members.
 Thank you,
 Raye

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Wooldridge
 Date: Apr 28, 2012 8:54:10 PM
 Subject: Fwd: Wheelchair Accessible Tours
 To: vickilyntex@aol.com, bevbobwoo1@aol.com, JAM@capecoddisability.org, cathy@cilcapecod.org, vporter@provincetown-ma.gov, fgntnerma@yahoo.com, sjkelly@truro-ma.gov, cburke200@verizon.net, ernimayb@comcast.net, polly@cilcapecod.org, comdis@nantucket-ma.gov, onejuandon@comcast.net, ghelen1@verizon.net, moebobcc@aol.com, plagg@chatham-ma.gov, rkaddy@verizon.net

Carla raises some great points that need to be addressed. Any thoughtys?
 Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Carla Burke <cburke200@verizon.net>
 To: Bevbobwoo1 <Bevbobwoo1@aol.com>
 Sent: Fri, Apr 27, 2012 9:16 pm
 Subject: Re: Wheelchair Accessible Tours

Bob

I spoke with Barbara Ann Foley, Harwich COA director, about this issue. She said the company they use for off cape trips (Funtastics...not sure of the spelling) does not have a wheelchair accessible bus. (The COA van is used for trips on cape and is wheelchair accessible and the driver is a trained paramedic.) She questioned whose responsibility it was to provide the accommodation, she thought it would be the tour company's, rather than the town's. Perhaps we could get some clarification about that.

During our discussion Barbara Ann mentioned that she couldn't remember anyone who uses a wheelchair requesting to go on a town sponsored trip off cape, but that one resident with a vision loss was not able to go on one. Funtastics said he had to be an independent traveller or he would have to arrange for someone to assist him. It was not clear to me whether or not he would have had to pay full price for the sighted guide or if the guide could go for free or at a discount. Since he was unable to find someone who could act as his sighted guide he could not go on the trip. He has not attempted to register for any other trip.

This raises an issue that perhaps should be part of the discussion. As Barbara Ann said, the issue is also one of access for people who have a vision disability as well as for people who use wheelchairs. She also raised the question of access for people with memory issues or other types of disabilities. What is the law regarding this? Who is responsible for providing the accommodation? What types of accommodations must be provided? Barbara Ann will not be able to make the meeting on the 30th, but thought perhaps these issues should be part of the discussion.

I will include this topic on the agenda of the May meeting of the Harwich Disability Rights Committee.

Carla Burke, Chair
 Harwich Disability Rights Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: Bevbobwoo1@aol.com

To: bevbobwoo1@aol.com ; vickilyntex@aol.com ; ghelen1@verizon.net ; sikelly@truro-ma.gov ; moebobcc@aol.com ; cburke200@verizon.net ; onejuandon@comcast.net ; polly@cilcapecod.org ; rkaddy@verizon.net ; erniemayb@comcast.net ; fgentnerma@yahoo.com ; plagg@chatham-ma.gov ; comdis@nantucket-ma.gov

Cc: jlong@mashpeema.gov

Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 4:42 PM

Subject: Wheelchair Accessible Tours

Good afternoon all.

Time for an update on our efforts to provide wheelchair accessible buses for tours.

First, thanks to those of you who provided me your experiences and suggestions regarding the issue. Obviously, this is a wide spread problem with no easy solution. I also solicited comments from people involved with the Disability Policy Consortium of MA and found some of them experienced the same problem.

Many of you suggested contacting Jeff Dougan at MOD. I did that about a week ago received a very helpful response from Naomi Goldberg who works with Jeff. I've enclosed her email at the end of this message.

I've also been meeting with our Council on Aging director and Karyn Wendell who arranges the tours for Mashpee Senior Center in search of possible solutions. We think it will be helpful to get more people involved in the discussion to see if we can get a good feel for the demand for the service and make people aware of the problem and efforts to resolve it. I ask that you and your members do a bit of advertising to raise awareness particularly with local Councils on Aging, town officials, other organizations/groups offering tours, etc.

Jim Long , Director of Mashpee Council on Aging, has placed the issue on the agenda for the Cape Councils on Aging (COAST) meeting on April 30, 2012 to help generate a wider effort.

How about some thoughts on creating a small working group of representatives of disability commissions to work along side of a similar group of COA reps to keep moving the issue forward? Any volunteers?

A frustrating issue: Karyn Wendell's research found Plymouth & Brockton Bus Line can provide an accessible bus that can accommodate two wheelchair passengers. However, for a day trip to Foxwoods, for example, the price per passenger would be \$49 whereas similar trips with most non-accessible bus companies can be had for about \$30. Obviously, this higher cost would make it difficult to get the minimum number of passengers for the trip. This is one of the questions I posed to MOD and they are looking into it and will get back to me in a couple of days. Stay tuned.

With your help we shall overcome!

Bob Wooldridge

Mashpee Disability Committee

Hi Bob,

My name is Naomi Goldberg. I work in the Client Services Department at the Mass Office on Disability. We provide information and advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities that have been denied service. Your email was forwarded to me this morning and I wanted to offer our assistance with this issue. I am not clear if the travel club is a town program or if it is a business (either profit or nonprofit) but neither may exclude people with disabilities from their programs and both have obligations to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Certainly town affiliated programs have higher obligations than private entities where the standard is "readily achievable," however it would be very difficult for a private business to say it is not readily achievable to rent a lift equipped bus for a person with a disability that wanted to purchase a trip. We have found that it is typically quite simple to rent a lift equipped bus with sufficient notice. We have successfully

resolved this same issue multiple times in both cases of town sponsored trips and private organization sponsored trips where lift equipped buses were not originally offered. We have resolved these issues informally with phone calls and in some cases we have filed discrimination complaints. If you would like to discuss this with an advocate in our office we can provide specific information on what we would/could do to assist in this matter. We will not do anything unless you tell us that you would like help.

I can be reached via email or at 800-322-2020.

Thanks