



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF MEETING

April 1, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81992212860?pwd=96B0sCX2VAnVFNa06w7BZP0gWVMbMH.1>

Consistent with the Governor's orders extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law every effort will be made to allow the public to view and/or listen to the meeting in real time. If you do not have a camera or microphone on your computer you may use the following dial in number: 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID 819 9221 2860 Passcode 825254. Please only use dial in or computer and not both as feedback will distort the meeting. This meeting will be audio and video recorded. In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, this location is accessible to people with disabilities, Wakefield provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an alternate format, or if you require any other accommodation, please contact the Town's Disability Coordinator, William Renault-Town Engineer at 781-246-6308 as far in advance of the event as possible. Every effort will be made to grant your request. Advance notification will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to remove an accessibility barrier for you.

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order Those in attendance were Dan Benjamin, Lois Benjamin, Paula Thompson, Judy Tanner, Bill Renault, Marie Rej and Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Pledge Allegiance if a flag is available

Mission Statement – “Our mission is to address the needs and concerns of our disabled residents and provide their full participation in the activities and services of Wakefield.”

Introductions

Approval of Minutes from Meetings on December 4, 2023, January 8, 2024 and Feb 5, 2024
Meeting Minutes were approved. March 4 meeting minutes were tabled until May meeting.

Financial Report as of March 31, 2024 – There has been no change in the amount of money the Commission has on hand.

Public Participation: - No public participation

Old/New Business

Update on Wakefield Housing Authority Annual meeting....Marie. Meeting was held on March 27, 2024. WHA Board members were present and Executive Director, Maureen Hickey, presented their annual plan. Maureen also read the statement submitted by the Commission on Disabilities: “To Whom It May Concern, the Wakefield Commission on Disabilities respectfully requests the Wakefield Housing Authority (WHA) consider in their Annual Plan the need for increased and more innovative community-based housing models, to include: Supporting Housing Models and Integrated Community Living Models, for both our senior and differently-able populations.



Kind regards,

Marie Rej and Lorna Davidson-Connelly, Vice Chairs, Wakefield Commission on Disabilities
Paula Thompson, Commission on Disabilities Member”

- Also present was Matt Noyes, Director of Public Policy of CHAPA (Citizen Housing And Planning Association). Matt is also a Wakefield resident. Matt’s role at CHAPA is to bring stakeholders together from across the industry to build consensus around equitable solutions to the Commonwealth’s affordable housing. He will be a good resource and ally as we pursue affordable, supportive housing in Wakefield.
- Maureen offered to give a tour of a congregate living unit at the Lincoln School. Marie will reach out to set up a time. Lorna, Dan and Paula are interested in attending.
- Update on INspire Café.... Marie - Marie reported the lease will be signed soon, however the demolition of the inside has been going along nicely and just about finished. A Café consultant has been hired to suggest the correct merchandise for a café is purchased and other necessary equipment.
- Inaccessibility of the Volunteer Night.....Janice.....Bill Renault reported on the time line of events in trying to make the Albion Cultural Exchange more accessible, however, not enough time or money so the Town Council decided to go forward with having the volunteer night at the ACE.
- Julie Scott’s emails....Ms. Scott had sent the Commission 4 emails with concerns. One had to do with the inaccessibility with the ACE and Bill Renault had commented that at this point the cost is too prohibitive. However the updating is on a priority list to make this center available to all abilities.

Ms. Scott also mentioned the unsafe walkway within Hall Park and feels that ARPA funds should have been used to redo the walkway.

Ms. Scott also mentioned her objection to \$400,000 dollars to be used for renovating the second floor of the Senior Ctr. She also objects to the Marijuana District overlay. Neither of these issues fit under the mission of the Commission. We encourage people to go to Town Meeting and express their thought and opinion.

- Outcome of polling place survey..... Janice was not available to present the findings and will report at the May meeting.
- Possible collaboration with other Disability Commissions.....like to look at issues that may be common with other communities and we would like to collaborate with other local towns. A colleague has been inducted onto the Commission of Disabilities in Woburn.
- HC parking ticket price...There has been concern that the Commission has not received and revenue for illegally parked vehicles in HP designated parking spots. We have also been informed, after asking, the fine for parking illegally cannot be raised because the cost of having to have all tickets reordered is too high. Marie said she would be in contact with Chief Skory to see if the parking attendant can come to one of our meeting to talk about the parking situation and tickets.

Next Meeting May 6, 2024

Meeting Adjourned 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Marie Rej and Lorna Davidson-Connelly