



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF MEETING

April 4th, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84718016654?pwd=YVVCcnVuMHVGam1XN3pjcnQvTihUT09>

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. Persons who wish to do so are invited to click on the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84718016654?pwd=YVVCcnVuMHVGam1XN3pjcnQvTihUT09>. 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 847 1801 6654 Passcode 683853. 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 *Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Marie Rej with 9 in attendance.*

In attendance:

Marie Traniello Rej

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Levonne Coughlin

Lois Benjamin

Darci Burns

Paula Thompson

Kristine Bardol

Janice Mirabassi

Members not in attendance:

Kate Staiti

Pledge Allegiance *Pledge was stated by the committee.*

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.”

Public Participation: *There was no public participation.*

Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2022 *Paula made the motion and Lois seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 3/21/2022 meeting.*



Financial Report as of March 21, 2022 *Lois reported that no new funds had been added or removed*

Old/New Business

Summaries, discussions and updates

- **Banner update:** *The banner has been dropped off at the town hall. Lois will pick it up before the “Intelligent Lives” event on 4/11/22.*
- **MBTA Accessibility Mtg:** *Lois attended the meeting. Lois commented on the inaccessibility of the Wakefield MBTA station. The MBTA did not have any comments about the station. The meeting focused on the readability of the MBTA signage. Janice wondered if the MBTA would be willing to make more handicap parking spaces at the Melrose Highland station, which is accessible. Lorna added on that we could have more accessible parking at the Reading station as well.*
- **New Commission Member** - *we are waiting for the Town Council to vote on their membership.*
- **Update on Intelligent Lives including invitational flier, and tasks -**
 - *Lois suggested that we have someone at the door, opening the door and directing people to the event. Janice volunteered to do this job.*
 - *Advertising - The event has been on the FB page, as well as on WCAT, the newspaper, the kiosks downtown, and etc. Levonne suggested asking the Item to cover the event so that the issue of employment gets more press coverage following the event.*
 - *Marie asked that members arrive at 6:00.*
 - *Panel members confirmed are Marianne and Dave O'Donnell (owners of Biddy and Bows, Melrose), 2 employees of Whole Foods, and Jeff Gentry.*
 - *Questions from RSVP List: Regarding schools - There will be a representative from the school department there - Marie will reach out and ask if they would be willing to field any audience questions. Regarding how employers can hire persons with disabilities - resources for hiring will be put on the program. Marie, Kristen, and Paula are going to reach out to employment agencies such as Triangle, Communitas, Horizon House and Viability about putting this.*

Order of events:

- *Welcome and Introductions - Marie*
- *Introduce the Film - Paula*
- *Show Film*
- *Break - 10 minutes*
- *Panel Discussion - Lorna (introductions), Darci/Levonne (questions)*

Wrap-up Next Meeting May 2, 2022

Motion to Adjourn *Lois made the motion, Lorna seconded it, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted by L Coughlin, Secretary