



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF MEETING

May 2nd, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300587695?pwd=TTYlZXpvMkM2UUJqNVFhSzJlOGplUT09>

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 823 0058 7695 Passcode 214187. 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 7:03 - pm by Marie Rej with 8 in attendance.*

In attendance:

Marie Traniello Rej

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Levonne Coughlin

Lois Benjamin

Kristine Bardol

Janice Mirabassi

Kate Staiti

Judy Tanner

Members not in attendance:

Paula Thompson

Pledge Allegiance if a flag is available *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: *William Renault, town engineer and ADA coordinator*

Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2022 *Lois made the motion and Levonne seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 4/4/2022 meeting.*

Financial Report as of April 30, 2022 *Lois reported that no new funds had been added or removed.*



Old/New Business Summaries, discussions and updates

Welcome to new commission member Judy Tanner.

Discussion with Bill Renault (BR)

- Accessibility of the town playgrounds (for people with mobility issues) - reported by Judy Tanner, the 2 playgrounds around the lake are accessible. JJ Round and Mapleway playground has accessibility issues. Judy Tanner will email photos and a more detailed description of the issues to BR and he will investigate the two playgrounds in question.
- Lorna asked for an update on the accessible swing - BR said that one of the school's playgrounds was being updated this year and will include an accessible swing. Lois advocated that the commission has been asking for a swing for many years. BR is going to look into the swing issue further and update us at our next meeting.
- The commission received an email about accessibility of a school event for the deaf and hard of hearing. BR did not get a copy of the complaint but will follow up with the school department once he receives that. Marie will forward the complaint to BR.
- Lorna asked BR about the meeting's public announcements in the newspaper. BR will follow up about when, who, and how the announcements are being posted to be sure that the public meeting laws are being followed.

De-brief - Intelligent Lives

- What worked/what could we have done better?
 - The movie got positive feedback from attendees.
- How do we continue the discussion?
 - Rotary is interested in having members of the commission come to one of their meetings to show a clip from the movie and discuss the issue of employment of people with disabilities. Levonne will follow up on this.
 - Discussion of asking WCAT to create a presentation for groups like Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - The resource list that was made for the event could be added to the commission website.
 - Discussion ensued about hiring practices of the Town for town positions. Are the town's hiring practices fair? For example, the town is requiring all summer position hires to have a driver's license, even if the position does not require driving. This

policy would eliminate many people with disabilities from the positions. Does the town actively recruit people with disabilities?

- Discuss the possibility of sponsoring an annual visibility event

MBTA discussions

- Letter sent regarding accessibility at Wakefield Station
- Judy attended an MBTA meeting on 4/28/22. She presented this update to the commission: Transit Ambassadors are posted at MBTA stations that help with rerouting of trains and buses but also help with requests for assistance. The MBTA is keeping an updated listing of elevator service (which are running and which are not). The Ride Flex is a new program for people that are eligible for The Ride. They are partnering with rideshare companies to reimburse ride costs for people. The rideshares have a much shorter wait time for people. The Ride program is still available. For questions about this program and for trouble with Charlie cards call 617-222-3200. Marie requested that this information be added to our website on the town page and would connect with Jenn McDonald.
- Lois said that the MBTA announced that they have a 5 year plan (CIP) to update stations that are not accessible - of which Wakefield is one of the 21 stations that are not accessible. The MBTA has not committed which stations will get updated yet. Lois will continue to work on this issue with the MBTA by attending public meetings and meeting with local representatives.

Leadership Positions

- We will talk about leadership positions on the commission for the next season. If you are interested in taking on a leadership role in the Fall, please email Marie. We will vote on this at the first meeting in the Fall.

Wrap-up Next Meeting June 6 , 2022

Motion to Adjourn *Lois made the motion, Lorna seconded it, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted by Levonne Coughlin, Secretary

