



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF MEETING

November 7th, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87296316220?pwd=a0hLZFBHSTlYQFV0UEtmN1JnbFNWQT09>

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 872 9631 6220 Passcode 755850. 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.

Present:

Commission members: Marie Rej, Lorna Davidson-Connelly, Paula Thompson, Kristen Bardol, Judy Tanner, Janice Mirabassi, Katharine Staiti. Absent: Levonne Coughlin, Lois Benjamin

Guest: Bill Renault, ADA Coordinator

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Marie Rej at 7:09 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation: No requests.

Approval of Minutes from September and October 2022 – Moved; seconded; all in favor.

Summary of meeting discussion: Old/New business

- Chris Carino from Albion Cultural Exchange was not at the meeting, so this agenda item was tabled.
- Updates from Bill Renault:
 - Harts Hill: request for a ramp from a resident; this request is still on-going with the Housing Authority; the issue has gone to the Board because the estimated cost for the project requires authorization; the estimate is \$30-\$35k; the ramp will be installed.
 - Chestnut Street: The designated accessible parking spot requested by a resident on Chestnut Street has been approved (about two weeks before the meeting); the signage will be installed.
 - Playground accessibility:



- Each public playground in Wakefield has (or will have) some type of accessible swing. Additionally, there is a request that a wheelchair platform swing be installed at one of the more central playgrounds. This apparatus requires a fairly large footprint (30-35 feet) in order to allow for adequate swinging space around the structure. Not all playgrounds can accommodate such a large footprint. Bill expects the cost of the swing to be added to the next round of playground funding.
 - There is also a plan for all Wakefield play structures to have a solid safety surfacing installed under the structure. This will be very costly as compared to particulate matter (such as woodchips or pea stone). Janice Mirabassi noted that particulate matter never holds up as a safe playground surface – it is quickly pushed away as a result of daily use of the structure, leaving inadequate material to help prevent injuries from a fall. Nor is particulate matter accessible for people using adaptive equipment.
 - Note: Town Council will not be using ARPA funding for playground updates or access additions/modifications. Mr. Mayo has recommended that playground funds be added to the town's capital budgets.
 - Judy Tanner asked about playground walkways that had been requested at JJ Round and Mapleway to allow for better wheelchair access; Mr. Renault said that town funds have been set aside for this project, and that he expects the walkways to be installed in the spring.
 - Paula Thompson mentioned that the City of Medford is doing work on adaptive playgrounds across the city. Paula will send contact information to Bill R. about this project.
- Town Day on Oct 8 and "Wakefield 101" night on Oct 20:
 - Both events were well attended.
 - Not sure how often the Wakefield 101 event happens, but it was a good opportunity to talk to new residents.
- Set up meeting with Wakefield Rotary regarding employment presentation/Meeting with Triangle/POST – Tentatively set for Tuesday, Nov 22
 - Triangle staff has been asked to present at a Wakefield Rotary meeting on employment issues and opportunities – and provide an overview of Triangle's work.
 - Terry Holmgren will reach out to his team to see if that date works.
 - Anyone on the Disability Commission is welcome to attend the event.
- Invitation to Linda at Mass Rehab to understand their services:
 - Linda offered to present to the Disability Commission at our Monday, January 9, 2023.
 - We should publicize this presentation (beginning in December) and invite the public and other folks interested in the topic to attend – e.g., CPAC and other groups.

- Kathy Foyle – Autism Housing Pathways:
 - Marie R. has started taking a 6-week class with Kathy to learn about housing options – e.g., vouchers that move with the client, or those that are specific to a building; the different housing lists and how to get on (and stay on) the lists; the fact that not every Housing Authority offers the same types of services or housing.
 - Marie offered to summarize some of the information from the class sessions for our Commission members.
 - We can re-post (to the Commission’s website) any websites that Kathy shares during the training.
- Youth Council liaison update: Lorna has not had a response from the Youth Council liaison as of yet.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 5, 2022

Motion to Adjourn: 7:46pm; seconded; all in favor

Respectfully Submitted by Marie Rej and Lorna J. Davidson-Connelly, Co-Chairs