



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF MEETING

September 12th, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84892951089?pwd=MEZ4THFBOUNEaU1UE9BNUKvUzZEUT09>

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 848 9295 1089 Passcode 659485. 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:

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

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Marie Rej at 7:03 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of 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: No requests.

Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2022 - delayed

Financial Report as of August 31, 2022: Lois Benjamin had reported to Marie Rej that there was no change in the account since the previous meeting.

Summary of meeting discussion: Old/New business

- **Town Day** on Oct 8, 2022 – Do we want to set up a table?
- **Wakefield 101** – Oct 20, 2022: 6-7:30pm. Do we want to set up a table?
 - Commission members determined that we would set up and staff a table for both of the above events.
 - Commission members volunteered to staff shifts at both events and discussed materials for the tables.



- Marie would let Steve Mayo know that we are interested and available to attend both events.
- **By-Law Feedback by Oct 17**
 - Please see the email sent by Sherri Dalton requesting input on our current bylaw.
 - Commission members can add to or suggest edits in the language of the bylaw.
 - The current language came from a template shared by Jeff Dougan (MOD)
 - Suggested that we look at the Town of Wellesley's bylaw language as an example.
- **Flying of Disability Pride Flag in July for Disability Pride month and/or October for Disability Awareness Month:**
 - The Commission received an email in July from Alex Makarewicz inquiring about the possibility of flying a Disability Pride flag on the flagpole at the Wakefield Public Library.
 - This determination would need to be made in conjunction with Beebe Library Trustees.
 - The Commission found online images of the Disability Pride flag and considered the cost of purchasing a 3'x5' flag. Motion: To purchase a flag at a cost of no more than \$50; the flag would be displayed at the Commission table for the Town Day and Wakefield 101 events in which the Commission planned to participate. Motion seconded. All in favor.
 - Marie volunteered to reach out to the Library to inquire about the possibility of flying the flag during the applicable disability awareness/pride periods.
 - Suggestion that we have information about Disability Pride/Awareness at the upcoming tabling events and/or post an article in *The Item*.
- **Set up meeting with Wakefield Rotary** regarding employment presentation.
 - Commission postponed the discussion about who could present a "elevator pitch" about the Commission at an upcoming Rotary meeting. Rotary meetings are on Tuesdays.
 - The purpose of the "pitch" would be to convey the fact that there is support available to guide and help employers who hire people with disabilities, plus a Q&A from the Rotary members, for a total time of about 30 minutes. There are also means to help identify potential employees and help them to succeed at their jobs.
 - Marie will reach out to Triangle to see if they might be able to make this presentation, and she will connect back with Levonne.
- **Invitations to Linda at Mass Rehab** to understand their services and to
- **Kathy Boyle – Autism Housing Pathways**
 - Kathy sets up clients with housing options. She could be instrumental in helping us to understand how we might influence builders to make housing more suitable to people with various disabilities.
 - Marie will reach out to ask Kathy if she is available to speak at an upcoming Commission meeting.
- **Housing Issues:** Questions and issues to consider
 - How does DDS look for housing to meet a person's specific needs?
 - What are the potential funding sources or vouchers for housing?

- How does this align with 40B or Section 8?
- Who tracks Section 8 and other state/federal housing availability in Wakefield?
- Janice M. will follow up on this question.
- **Youth Council liaison**
 - Lorna will connect with Katherine Dingha to ask about this.
- **Elections for New Officers**
 - Motion: Wait until the October meeting of the Commission due to absent members. Seconded. All in favor.
- **Discussion of follow-up items with Bill Renault:**
 - Chestnut Street Accessible Parking sign: This issue will be discussed at the next Traffic Advisory Council (TAC) meeting; if approved, the sign will be located at the first spot after the residence's driveway. TAC meetings were on hold for the summer.
 - Mapleway and JJ Round playgrounds will each have a couple of ground-level play structures as well as a swing to accommodate children with disabilities. These updates are planned for the spring of FY23. Judy T. asked about the walkway at Mapleway to provide access for people using adaptive equipment. Bill reported that the area for the walkway has been surveyed and designed, and a paving bid has been accepted – the town just needs to move forward on the construction.
 - The town completed the Floral Way paving project last week using stabilized stone dust as the material.
 - Complaint about parking at Vista apartments: Bill R. reported that because Vista apartments are located on private property, the Disability Commission does not have any jurisdiction over the issue raised in the complaint. The folks at Vista are trying to resolve the complaint internally.
 - Driveway entrance to the Wakefield Post Office: the ramp has been designed that will eliminate two vertical curbs. The project awaits the architectural panels.
 - Town employment opportunities: Bill R. has started conversations with the town's Human Resources staff. Bill will be training to become a certified ADA Coordinator.
- **Next Meeting: October 3, 2022**
- **Motion to Adjourn:** seconded; all in favor.

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