



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

NOTICE OF MEETING

December 6th, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88237232016?pwd=d2FERkpuNFJGb0xpd1htQ0RESUZPUT09>

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://us02web.zoom.us/j/88237232016?pwd=d2FERkpuNFJGb0xpd1htQ0RESUZPUT09>. 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 882 3723 2016 Passcode 437191. 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 7:02 pm by Marie Rej with 9 in attendance.

In attendance:

Marie Traniello Rej

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Paula Thompson

Levonne Coughlin

Kate Staiti

Kristine Bardol

Darci Burns

Lois Benjamin

Janice Mirabassi

Members not in attendance:

Bella Schwartzberg

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:

- *Chris Carino (Albion Cultural Exchange)*

Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2021

Levonne made the motion and Paula seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 11/01/2021 meeting.

Financial Report as of November 30, 2021

Lois reported that no new funds have been added to the account.

Old/New Business

Summaries, discussions and updates

- **Update on Albion Cultural Exchange (ACE) – Chris Carino**

ACE has worked on improving the entrances to the building but ran out of money due to other building safety improvements that needed to be made (such as drainage, unsafe flooring, asbestos abatement, etc.). The ACE wants to make Chestnut St. the primary entrance even though the costs are high to make this happen. Issues with the entrance still remain but the ACE remains committed to making this a priority as more funds have been made available via grants that have been awarded. Issues with the neighboring buildings regarding using the Chestnut St. entrance are beginning to be resolved. A dialog has been opened with the new owners of the “bank” building, which is a stakeholder in the making of the Chestnut St. accessible entrance. The ACE is looking into ways to make the additional floors accessible, either through a lift or elevator. Chris summarized the ACE’s mission in the community.

- **Update on Commission’s name change**

The name change was approved at the town meeting in November.

- **Update on ADA accommodations for Town Meeting**

The accommodations were well received and emails thanking the commission were received.

- **Banner**

*Lois will order the banner with the new name on it at the T Stop and ask for an invoice. An invoice will be submitted for approval and payment. Lois asked if we wanted the town seal or the bandstand logo on the banner. A debate ensued and **it was decided that the seal would be used.** The banner will be of vinyl or polyester*

and be **6 feet long**. Marie asked that Lois **request a draft copy** and what the options are. She asked Lois to **email out a draft to the commission members**.

- **Update on Post Office front entrance door**

A response was received from the management of the Wakefield Post Office. They stated that they do not have to comply with the ADA requirements. They also stated that at this time they do not have the funds to make the improvements we asked for. Bill Renault (town engineer) advised Marie that we can appeal to the Assessability Board and ask for the Postal Service to be compelled to make the entrance more accessible. Marie made a motion for the commission to take a vote on if we wanted to proceed with the appeal and Lorna 2nd the motion to vote. The commission voted unanimously to pursue the accessibility of the Wakefield Post Office with the US Access Board.

- **Liaison to other boards/commissions –**

Lorna on Council On Aging (COA) - The COA is willing to help promote events the WCD is sponsoring. Lorna will update them on our Intelligent Lives event.

Paula on the permanent building committee. The meeting was about the building of the new high school. Paula discussed UDL being a priority when planning the design.

Janice asked if we wanted to request a presentation from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the building project for the “head of the lake”. Marie that it was a good idea to make that request. Janice will act on that. The developers are Cabot, Cabot, and Forbes.

- **Website update-**

Paula gave an update about the WCD website’s resources page. Paula requested a volunteer to work with her on that update. Lorna volunteered to help with this project.

- **Update on Intelligent Lives**

We have received an invoice for \$262 for the use of the Galvin for the evening. Sherri informed Marie that the WCD should not be charged for the use of the Galvin because we are a town commission. Marie has emailed the school department to resolve the issue and is awaiting a reply.

- **Tasks for Intelligent Lives**

Marie reviewed the list of tasks for the event with the commission members. We discussed who would take on the action items. Some discussion happened around

panel participants and who would reach out to each suggestion. Marie updated the spreadsheet.

Potential panel questions were discussed. Providing the questions ahead of time to the panel participants was discussed. Paula will send out the film discussion guide.

*Marie asked if we would be willing to meet a second time in January to work on the event. **The commission will meet 1/3/2022 and 1/17/2022.** Lorna will send a notice to Sheri so that the 2nd date will be posted publicly.*

- **Additional Items:**

The Wakefield Neighborhood Association and the Historical Commission have raised concerns about the building of an accessible walking path and pickle ball court behind the Hartshorn House (near Veterans Field). The state has mandated that the path and athletic courts in that area need to be made accessible, so updates are being made. Meetings are being planned to resolve the complaint. Janice volunteered to be a liaison for the Commission during these negotiations.

Marie requested that Lorna add the MBTA Paratransit on our next agenda.

Wrap-up Next Meeting January 3, 2022

Motion to Adjourn

Lois made the motion, Lorna second it, to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by L Coughlin , Secretary