



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

NOTICE OF MEETING

October 4th, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89948988458?pwd=aGwyR09BY0RQd3p0a1BwblNoaFkxdz09>

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/89948988458?pwd=aGwyR09BY0RQd3p0a1BwblNoaFkxdz09>. 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 899 4898 8458 Passcode 299012. 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 on 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 at least 5 days in advance of the event. Every effort will be made to grant your request. Advanced notification will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangement 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 6 in attendance.

In attendance:

Janice Mirabassi

Marie Traniello Rej

Lois Benjamin

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Paula Thompson

Levonnie Coughlin

Members not in attendance:

Darci Burns

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:

Benny Wheat (Human Rights Commission Chair)

Bella Schwartzberg (Youth Council Student Liaison)

William Renault (Town Engineer)



Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2021

Paula made the motion and Lois seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 09/13/2021 meeting.

Financial Report as of September 30, 2021

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

Old/New Business

Summaries, discussions and updates on

- Welcome our Youth Council Liaison Bella Schwartzberg
- Updates on the traffic signs for children with disabilities -

The sign has been ordered and once it is delivered it will be installed at the location requested.

- Update on the name change

An article about the name change has been drafted and will be included in the consent calendar at the upcoming Town Meeting. The word issues was proposed to be dropped from the commission name. So the name will become the Wakefield Commission on Disabilities.

- Update on ADA accommodations for Town Meeting

William Renault updated the commission on the accommodations requests for the upcoming Town Meeting. Bill has a meeting tomorrow with stakeholders about what additional accommodations for the hard of hearing can be provided. Multiple options will be discussed at the meeting and a decision will be made. Upgrades made last year will remain in place but new accommodations may be added.

- Door on Post Office door does not have an automatic door opener button

According to Lois, this issue was discussed and investigated by the commission about 10 years ago. The post office is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and upgrades are very difficult to come by because they have exemptions from the ADA. Lorna asked about not changing the architecture but adding an automatic opener. Levonne made a motion to send a letter requesting that they upgrade the front door to be more accessible, Paula second the motion. A vote was conducted and it passed. Levonne will draft the letter for the commission.

- Updates from anyone who is a liaison to another commission/board

Lois attended the Traffic Advisory Committee, the Historical Board and the Veteran's Board. Benny Wheat updated the commission about a social media educational campaign about more up-to-date language to describe people. The Human Rights Commission wanted to include disabilities. Lorna will be attending the Council on Aging meeting next week.

- Update on WCAT on if they might be able to support an outside showing of Intelligent Lives

Levonnie updated the commission on the option of an outdoor showing of the documentary. WCAT rents the equipment for the "Movies by the Lake". Do we want to approach the director of WCAT about the option of co-hosting the viewing? Paula let the commission know that we may be able to borrow equipment from Communitas. This equipment would be able to accommodate a crowd of up to 100 people (because of the size of the screen). Bella added that she would be able to help promote the showing of the documentary through her connections at WHS.

Lorna suggested that we could hold off on deciding on the venue (indoor or outdoor) until January because we might know more about what is happening in terms of the virus's impact on community gatherings. Marie suggested the Galvin Middle School for the event because it is much larger than the Savings Bank Theater. Social distancing would be more possible at the GMS. Janice suggested that we reserve both locations and then make a decision on the venue in January. She also suggested inviting potential employers (such as Stop and Shop, etc) to the event. Other support agencies were discussed (SHIP, Mass Advocates, etc).

Marie is going to consolidate our notes on this event from previous meetings so we can begin planning again in November. Lorna will find out if we can use the facilities at the schools by reaching out to the principal. Marie will reach out about the Middle School.

- **Additional Items that came up:**

Bill Renault updated the commission on the ADA grants the town has received. A \$400,000 "Complete Street" grant was awarded for Albion Street. This grant will make the entire stretch of the street ADA compliant. Another grant was awarded for the Greenwood, Oak and Main Streets intersection to upgrade the curbs. Another \$45,000 grant was awarded to upgrade The Floral Way on the Lake that will make that part of the path ADA compliant. There is a plan in the works for the Albion Cultural Exchange to get a ramp, once funds have been secured.

Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAV) and the Human Rights Commission is sponsoring an online event called Active Bystander Training. It's on Wednesday, Oct. 6th 6-8:30 pm. Benny will send the invite to Levonnie and she will send out to members. Janice is attending and will update the commission at the next meeting.

Wrap-up Next Meeting November 1, 2021

Motion to Adjourn

Marie made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

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