



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

NOTICE OF MEETING

November 1st, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88673705206?pwd=L05Ob0E3TnFuaFJMOVI3UkQrWXZmZz09>

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/88673705206?pwd=L05Ob0E3TnFuaFJMOVI3UkQrWXZmZz09>. 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 886 7370 5206 Passcode 619657. 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 7:02 pm by Marie Rej with 9 in attendance.

In attendance:

Janice Mirabassi

Marie Traniello Rej

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Paula Thompson

Levonnie Coughlin

Kate Staiti

Bella Schwartzberg

Kristine Bardol

Darci Burns

Members not in attendance:

Lois Benjamin

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 & ADA coordinator

Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2021

Paula made the motion and Lora seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 10/04/2021 meeting.

Financial Report as of October 31, 2021

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

Old/New Business

Summaries, discussions and updates on

- **Welcome new members Katharine (Kate) Staiti and Kristine Bardol**
- **Update on Commission's name change**
 - Article 8 (commission name change) will be presented at the Town Meeting. Bill Renault will present that at the meeting.
- **Update on ADA accommodations for Town Meeting**
 - CART Services will be provided for residents in attendance that require that service.
 - Notices have been posted in the newspaper to ask residents that need accommodations to come forward with their request.
 - Listening devices and large video screens will also be available.
 - Folks with mobility issues will have an accessible area.
- **Banner? Go forward after the town meeting?**
 - The committee would like to go forward with the banner once the name change has gone through. A vinyl banner will be ordered from the T Stop.
- **Update on Post Office front entrance door**
 - At our last meeting a resident concern was brought forward that the front door was not accessible.

Marie made the motion, Lorna second it, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by L Coughlin , Secretary

- o A letter was drafted requesting an automated door be installed and Marie has been in contact with the local manager of the Main Wakefield post office.
- **Liaison to other boards/commissions –**
 - o Lorna - Council On Aging update - The council has some goals they are working on (you can read Age Friendly action plan on their website that is linked to the town website). They are interested in partnering with the Commission on Disabilities because several of their action plan items would also benefit town's folk with disabilities.
 - o Paula is going to get more information about the Permanent Building Committee, to see if that committee would benefit from a liaison from the Disability commission.
 - o Marie wondered about how we could work with the Northeast Vocational School to improve the inclusivity of the school. This might be a future agenda item.
- **Status on traffic sign in Greenwood on Middle Street**
 - o The commission has been approached on a few occasions regarding signs for handicap parking or road signs for the safety of their children with disabilities.
 - o Signs for the families with children with disabilities were installed.
 - o The signs have the universal sign for handicaps (the wheelchair icon) with a placard underneath to identify the type of disability.
 - o Some members of the commission expressed a concern that the signs were signifying a mobility disability, while the said children did not have a mobility disability.
 - o Bill Renault explained that the signs installed were federally approved road signs and the town is mandated to follow the guidelines set forward in their manual. Bill will provide the committee with contact information so the commission members can write a letter expressing our concern about the sign that is mandated in the manual.
- **Update on Intelligent lives – Marie (prior meeting notes) Reserve Venues for WHS and Galvin Middle School**
 - o Intelligent Lives is a documentary that the commission would like to show to the Wakefield community. The objective of the showing would be to raise awareness in town of our commission and about the topics raised in the film, including increasing

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employment of individuals with disabilities. The target audience would be local businesses but also the town folk.

- o Communitas may be able to support the commission on creating a discussion panel. A possible job coach on the discussion panel would be very helpful to our mission on employment for individuals with disabilities.
- o Other community partnerships we were looking to make are Rotary, surrounding town disability commissions, Triangle, Chamber of Commerce, Biddie and Bo, etc.
- o A handout will be made to give out at the event - perhaps a bookmark - with a QR code directing people to our website.
- o We have been approved to use the Galvin auditorium or Savings Bank Theater. There is a fee for a custodian if we use those venues. We will need to have a registry of attendees as a Covid precaution.
- o We will be reserving a date in April (our meeting date in April is on the 4th).
- o Bella will look into inviting members from the Youth Council and advertising the event.
- o We will have to ask the town to post the event on the town facebook account.
- o The next step would be to edit/revise the flyer and create an invitation.
- o The town has a community development director (Erin Kokinda) that has an email list of the town's businesses. She can send out an email blast with an invitation in it.
- o Bill can assist us with an online sign up form for the event.

- **Closed Caption**

- o Are the public notices for the meetings announcing that there will be closed captions provided? Lorna suggested that this information should be provided. Our committee does have accommodations listed on our public notice.
- o Not every commission in town has accommodations listed on their public notices. They are not all using the CC feature.
- o Some members of the Disability Commission will be attending a seminar about accessibility for town meetings that is being held by the Massachusetts Office of Disabilities.

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Wrap-up Next Meeting December 6, 2021

Motion to Adjourn

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