



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

### NOTICE OF MEETING

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82358639671?pwd=M2xSRnBvUTlXcWtrT21scGl6L1VNZz09>

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/82358639671?pwd=M2xSRnBvUTlXcWtrT21scGl6L1VNZz09>. 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 823 5863 9671 Passcode 739736. 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 7:04 pm by Marie Rej with 8 in attendance.

*In attendance:*

Marie Traniello Rej

Lorna Davidson-Connelly

Levonnie Coughlin

Kate Staiti

Lois Benjamin

Janice Mirabassi

Darci Burns

Paula Thompson

*Members not in attendance:*

Kristine Bardol

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:** No members of the public were in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2021** Lorna made the motion and Lois seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 10/06/2021 meeting.

**Financial Report as of December 31, 2021** Lois reported that no new funds have been added to the account.



## **Old/New Business** Summaries, discussions and updates

- **MBTA Para Transit Program – Paula**

- The program is funded by the MBTA. They do travel education for people with disabilities. They teach people how to use public transportation from their home location. Paula has the contact information for Linda Salzer (program rep) and can arrange a visit from her in the future.

- **Update on the Post Office entryway**

- Marie completed the online application regarding our complaint about the accessibility of our post office entrance. She received an automated receipt of the application. Marie will follow up in a few months if we have not heard back.

- **Update on Intelligent Lives invitational flyer**

- Time → change to 6:30 - 9:00 (film is 70 minutes long)
- Letter → we will need a letter to go with the flyer to send to the businesses

- **I.L. tasks**

- Do we want to invite groups to set up information tables in the lobby?
- Elevator Pitch to businesses: Asking them (a representative from the business and an employee) to join us to share their positive experiences of hiring people with disabilities. (Darci, Paula and Marie will reach out to businesses prior to the next meeting.)
- We are planning another meeting on 1/17/2022 to continue to plan.
- We will not have to pay for the cost of the use of the building.
- Marie will follow up on the online registration with the staff at the Town Hall. Once that is done, Levonne will add that information to the flyer.
- For the registration, we will ask for the email address, number of attendees, if people need accommodation, etc.
- We will request an article be placed in the Item about the event, it will be advertised on the town social media accounts, etc.
- Discussion around these questions ensued (Marie added actionable items to our TO-Do list.) - How will we do social distancing at the event? Will we follow state, town, or CDC guidelines? What are the requirements? Can we have a remote option (video the event)? Should we check in with the health department? Should we ask for additional handicap parking for the event (on cones)?
- Janice is working on the bookmark and will have a draft at our next meeting.

- **Additional Items that came up:**

- We reviewed the mock up of the banner. Lois received a draft of the banner from Sardella Signs. The name needs to be edited to say “Wakefield Commission on Disabilities” not “Commission on Disability”. We discussed the pros and cons of putting the QR code on the banner - we decided we do want the QR Code once the URL is changed. **Levonnie will email one out to the committee.** Committee members requested one more quote from Sign-o-rama. **Lois will follow up on the 2nd quote.**
- We need to ask Jenn (the town webmaster) to update the website and the URL to reflect our new name - Commission on Disabilities. **Janice will follow up on that. Lorna will follow up with Sherri about changing our letterhead for the agendas.**
- Paula attended a meeting on 12/16/21 about priority items for money that the town is receiving. She advocated for spending money on items that will impact the lives of people with disabilities. The recommendations will be going to the town council for consideration. It was suggested that our commission should send some recommendations to the town council. **Marie will send an email to Bill Renault about our committee drafting a letter with recommendations for spending projects.**
- Marie suggested that our commission should focus on housing for those with disabilities as our next priority. Janice suggested we follow the Zoning Board meetings to keep up to date on projects happening around town.

**Next Meeting January 24, 2022**

**Motion to Adjourn** *Lorna made the motion, Darci second it, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm.*

Respectfully Submitted by L Coughlin, Secretary