



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

### NOTICE OF MEETING

March 01<sup>st</sup>, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84956901123?pwd=WYN5WDQzY3Y5MTFGM2g5RGJIU1ZsQT09>

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but 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/84956901123?pwd=WYN5WDQzY3Y5MTFGM2g5RGJIU1ZsQT09>. 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 849 5690 1123 Passcode 627189. 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 by Marie at 7:04.*

#### Pledge Allegiance if flag is available

*Pledge was stated by members.*

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.”

*Mission statement was read*

#### Public Participation: Dan Lieber, and Fran Demiany

*Dan Lieber said he feels discriminated by town meeting but cannot attend due to COVID. Dan has a hearing impairment and relies on reading lips to*

*He has requested that all audio is increased and that all speakers use speakers. The town council Mullin has been copied on my correspondences. The fieldhouse and outside location there were no accommodations and the town refused to make accommodations for hearing impaired with use of clear masks/shields to enable lip reading and technology accommodations. I could not actively participate in the town meeting without accommodations and I request that accommodations are made so that anyone with hearing impairment can actively participate in Town Meeting. Dan is trying to address the request administratively. Dan is requesting amplification and clear masks in order to read lips. Dan does not want to create additional logistical or additional costs for the town.*



*Lorna asked if Dan wear's hearing aids. Lorna asked if he had an FM system would it help with his hearing aids. Hearing aides are not a solution for Dan's impairment for hearing speech.*

*Bill Renault reported on what the town is going to address for the next town meeting. We are going to do a public outreach to gather information from the community about all accommodations needed. Bill will reach out to Daniel to share the information gathered and accommodation plan. Bill requested that Dan provide a list of all the accommodations that he is requesting or what is needed.*

*Lorna recommends that Bill look into the type of accommodations that will be necessary when town meetings return to the Galvin Middle School.*

*Fran Demiany shared her experience of getting the vaccine as a "homebound" resident. Fran contacted Ruth Clay to understand the process for obtaining the vaccine. Ruth confirmed that she was on the list. Fran received a call less than week from the health department stating that vaccines were available. Fran recommends that people reach out to the town health department to get their names on the list.*

*Marie shared her experience about how to volunteer to help with the dissemination of vaccines through the Mystic Valley Coalition. Marie and her husband volunteered at the clinic in Melrose and it was an incredibly positive and organized experience. Although, Marie reported that the Governor has made a change to the roll-out of vaccines will be limited to these big sites instead of community based sites like the one in Wakefield. If you did get the 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine in Wakefield than you can get the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine in Wakefield.*

*Fran suggested that people get involved in community outreach to provide feedback to the governor about the issues with removing local sites. Many people are unable to travel to the larger sites like Fenway and Gillette.*

#### Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2021 meeting

*Lorna made a motion to approve and Paula seconded the motion at 7:41.*

#### Financial Report as of February 28, 2021

*Lois was not in attendance to provide the report.*

#### Old/New Business

- Website update – Maeve & Paula  
*Paula gave an update on the website. The website was updated with additional links provided by Lorna. Is recommended that we add additional links to the website every 6 weeks or so. Paula will reach out to Jen about progress on the website and then report out at the April meeting.*
- Continue discussion related to Intelligent Lives

*The committee brainstormed different options for showing the Intelligent Lives and maybe waiting until we can do something in person. Instead focus on other ways to spread the word on disability awareness with the community through social media platforms and other avenues. October is disability awareness month and maybe we can do this in person and get people together to connect. The group believes that postponing until Fall when we can do it in person. The committee will view the movie during a meeting. The committee took a vote in favor of waiting to do the event in person.*

- Update on Banner – Lois and Bill

*Bill will issue the warrant to change our Wakefield Commission on Disabilities. The majority of the commission supports that change in the name. Lois and Maeve were not present for the vote.*

- Discussion on ADA Transition Plan and update on Assistance/Accommodations at Town Meetings and
- All Public Town Meetings, who is responsible for posting the request for accommodations with at 3 weeks prior to whatever meeting that will take place.

*The town should request accommodations at least 3 weeks prior to the town council.*

*Bill reported out on the surveys and data that needs to be collected related to the assistance and accommodations across town. A transition plan will be created and how the funding will be used to address big ticket items and then a process for addressing other issues from a priority list. Bill and his staff will reach out to the different community groups to determine the various needs across the town. Then Bill will make a report to the commission. Marie stated the transition plan will be a great guide for our council and our commission. The plan would be approved at Town Meeting and then the work with vendors would begin.*

*Lorna asked the question if part of the plan is to make the entry ways to businesses along main street that are not accessible for wheel chairs. There is a large step into the businesses. There many design issues that make it difficult to add ramps. There are additional implications and restrictions regarding installing ramps.*

*Cheryl pointed out how it is difficult to access sidewalks downtown on Avon Street due to snow piling. She had to walk in the street to get to the sidewalk.*

- Goals and By-laws – Formal decision was made a vote taken to use the existing goals and By-laws.
- First Vision 2030 meeting March 4th - Community visioning for planning initiative where the community can "imagine the future" and think about how we can shape the different parts of Town with different sets of ideas. The first public meeting will be held virtually on March 4 at 7pm. Register at [www.wakefield.ma.us/vision-2030](http://www.wakefield.ma.us/vision-2030).

*Marie shared the details of the first Community vision meeting on Thursday at 7:00. She recommends that we participate to be sure we have involvement in the vision for the town.*

*Bill reported that this an initial event but it would be good for our commission to get the word out and a seat at the table to provide insights.*

Wrap-up Next Meeting April 5, 2021

Intelligent lives will watch at the next meeting and an update regarding town meeting accommodations.

Motion to Adjourn

Lorna made the motion to adjourn, Marie seconded it at 8:33.

Respectfully Submitted by Marie Rej and Lorna Davidson-Connelly, Co-chairs