



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244**

Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities
New Marlborough Public Library, New Marlborough, MA
Friday, March 8, 2019

Members Present: KellyAnne McGuire, Chair
Tom Stalker, Vice-Chair
Marilyn Fracasso
John Hotaling
John Pshenishny
Prudence Spaulding

Others Present: Marsha Pshenishny

The meeting of the Commission on Disabilities (COD) was convened at 5:15pm.

Review and approve meeting minutes for joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on November 19, 2018; February 19, 2019

February 19, 2019

KellyAnne and Tom indicated they would do their best to get minutes out quicker.

Prue then requested we review and approve the February 19, 2019 minutes at the next meeting.
All agreed.

November 19, 2018

Marilyn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John H. second. All agreed.

Discuss and approve a proposed bylaw for the Commission on Disabilities (COD) as well as discussion of next steps.

Tom passed out a copy of suggested bylaw from the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities.

Discussion took place regarding the number of meetings the COD would have per year.

Tom explained the number of meetings, in the article voted by the Town Meeting [annual meeting May 2018], was only a suggestion. We can adjust that number to whatever we want. He further suggested we agree on 6 meetings annually.

Prue pointed out we can have more meetings if needed. She went on to ask how the bylaws may be amended.

Tom explained there is an amendment section in the suggested bylaw. The amendment states that the COD has the authority to change the bylaw.

Discussion took place regarding the goals section of the suggested bylaw. Everyone agreed we would delete this section.

Article I: Title and Purpose

No changes

Article II: Powers and Duties

KellyAnne requests we delete “#10 Receive gifts of property, both real and personal in the name of the City/Town subject to the approval of the city council; such gifts to be managed and controlled by the Commission.”

KellyAnne requests we delete “#2 Coordinate the activities of other local groups organized to meet the needs of people with disabilities.”

Article III: Membership

Suggestions as previously discussed above.

KellyAnne suggests adding language to “#1 The majority of members shall consist of people with disabilities.”

Prue suggests change to #1: The majority of members shall consist of people with disabilities; proof of disability is not required.”

Marilyn questioned “#4 If any member is absent from three regularly scheduled meetings in any one calendar year, a recommendation shall be made to the Mayor that he/she be removed from the Commission, unless any or all absences have been excused for good cause by the chairperson. Good cause shall include, but not limited to: illness, a death in the family, weather, and professional responsibilities.” #4 is to be deleted.

Tom questioned “#3 Resignation shall be made by notifying the chairperson in writing.” Members resigning must also contact the Town Clerk.

Prue suggests “#3 Resignation shall be made by notifying the chairperson and Town Clerk in writing.”

Tom suggests removing “#6 Any members of said Commission may, after a public hearing, is so requested, be removed for cause by the appointing authority.”

Article IV: Officers

No changes.

Article V: Meetings

Prue questions “#6 Notice of meetings will be sent to the members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.”

Tom suggests “#6 Notice of meetings will be sent to the members at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.”

Prue makes a motion to accept the bylaw, with changes, for submission to the Board of Selectmen for inclusion in the article for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. John H. second. All agree.

Discuss FY 20 budget request.

Prue indicates she put in for a suggested budget as follows:

Mileage: 50

Stamps: 25

Conferences or Training: 100

Office Supplies: 50

KellyAnne will submit the budget request for \$225.

Discuss information received by the Town’s Council on Aging, from the Perkins School for the Blind.

Tom forgot to bring the information to the meeting and would like to discuss at the next meeting.

Discuss communication of newly adopted policies.

Tom indicated he sent an email to the Finance Committee which included our Grievance Procedures and our Notice Under ADA (non-discrimination policy). Evidently, a few special requests have been made to the Finance Committee concerning ADA issues, and those people have had their requests denied.

Tom would like to start promoting our new policies and procedures to those involved in Town government as well as the general public and do so representing the COD. All agreed.

Any new business for commission review

KellyAnne requests volunteers to help secure email addresses to begin the education process. Email addresses should include board/committee/commission/etc. chairpersons, secretaries, etc.

Tom suggests if anyone has any other suggestions for people to be contacted, they are encouraged to contact him.

Tom will get in touch with COD members to arrange for the next meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Prue and seconded by Tom. All agreed.