

Commission on Disabilities Minutes

July 14th 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. Present were Mr. John Hotaling, Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Thomas Stalker, Mrs. Sharon Fleck, Ms. KellyAnne McGuire, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding with Mr. Will Sikula from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. . Mrs. Marilyn Fracasso joined the group at about 9:00AM.

The organizational part of the meeting took place immediately. Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to have Mrs. Fracasso serve as the chairman; however, Mr. Stalker stated that since she worked for the Town it would be a conflict of interest. This motion was withdrawn and Mrs. Fleck made a motion to have Ms. McGuire serve as the chair, with Mr. Stalker the vice-chair and later the group asked both Mrs. Fleck and Mrs. Spaulding to share the post of the secretary.

Some discussion took place about a “mission statement.” However it was decided to leave that until a later meeting.

Mr. Sikula was asked what his role would be on the Commission. He stated that he worked for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and had been asked to formulate a “self-evaluation report” of the various towns’ facilities. This would provide a basis for all ADA applicable grant applications that would finance the improvements to the Town Hall and bring the building up to “code.” This report would evaluate whether the town facilities could:

- 1) Insure access to buildings programs, meetings and activities.
- 2) Insure inclusion and non-discrimination of disabled persons.
- 3) Provide availability of proper communication methods.
- 4) Guarantee property safety procedures.

Because Mr. Sikula had already examined the Town Hall as well as the library, the highway garage, Umpachene Falls Park, and the new and old Fire house, he was asked what the Commission needed to do. He stated that the Town needed the self –evaluation plan in order to apply for several grants, which needs to be to be completed quickly. He suggested that the members review his original document and formulate suggestions and comments. These should be sent to Ms. McGuire to be amalgamated into the document and then forwarded to Will who will attach or incorporate them into the final report. The final report should be

available to Will by August 3. It should be published on the website's News and Notices, on Maggie's' list with copies in the Town Hall, at the library with notification of its existence, and put in the Five Village News. Further notices would be at the transfer station and the two post offices.

Mr. Sikula had promised to bring the report and his presence to the Council on Aging luncheon on August 10th for public comment Mrs. Spaulding had to leave to attend another meeting. John Pshenishny pointed out the unevenness of the walkway into Town Hall and the problems that causes with walkers. In addition, it was pointed out that the Transfer Station had never been evaluated by Will; Alvin Stalker later took Will to the Transfer Station.

It was agreed that the Commission would next meet on Tuesday, August 14 at 5 p.m.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Commission, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding

Sharon Fleck