



Commission on Disability Meeting

August 10, 2023 1:00PM

Council on Aging Media Room, 328 North Main Street

Date: August 10, 2023

Time: 1PM

Attendees: Erin Koebler, Chair, Jean Delaney, Brian Falk, Kelly Phillips, Linda Smith, Michael Waniewski, Dr. Joanne Welch

Guest: Joan Iwanicki, HR Director, ADA Coordinator, Town of East Longmeadow,

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:07PM, with a motion by Brian Falk, seconded by Kelly Phillips.
2. Roll call – Members introduced themselves to Joan Iwanicki, ADA Coordinator, Town of East Longmeadow.
3. Joan Iwanicki introduced herself to the group. Discussed the ways the COD will interact with the ADA Coordinator. Commission discussed the definition of “disabled” when a physical difference in ability is not evident.
4. The Commission addressed old business, including:
 - a. ADA Grievance procedure – Jean Delaney composed language for a grievance procedure. The Commission discussed changes, including the use of “most recent” requirements of Title II of the ADA of 1990, and the use of “grievant.” The Commission agreed to post the final grievance procedure on-line as a link, and to have a version for the visually-impaired. Final version of the grievance procedure was not adopted.
 - b. Accessible garden beds at the Community Garden – Linda Smith will provide an update at the September meeting.
 - c. Report on a successful National Night Out. Thanks to Linda Smith for donating toys and Barbies that represented people with disabilities. They were great conversation starters.
5. New business
 - a. Joan Iwanicki will get the Commission a copy of the Public Notice of Discrimination to post at each Town building.
6. Mission, Vision, Goals – the Commission liked South Hadley’s information.
 - a. Outreach goal – to make accountability a part of the town’s vernacular.
7. Action Items for next meeting
 - c. Next steps for a grievance procedure – how to have it approved, and the process for a grievant.
 - d. Possible tasks for the Commission to follow up on – Accessible Town website, Handicapped sani-cans at National Night Out.

8. Next Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023 @ 1PM

9. Meeting was adjourned at 2:26PM, with a motion to adjourn by Jean Delaney, seconded by Brian Fisk.