

Winthrop Commission on Disability

Meeting Date: Date 08/30/23

Commission Members In Attendance:

Andrew Carr	x	Kathleen Kane <i>on zoom</i>	x
Hannah Belcher, Town Council Liaison	x	John Morgan	x
Denise Quist	x	Jon Rodis <i>on zoom</i>	x
Karla Murphy	x		

GUEST SPEAKER: Jeff Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services at the Massachusetts Office on Disability

A. Roll call and everyone in attendance:

- Karla Murphy, Chair
- Jon Rodis, Vice-Chair
- Andrew Carr, Secretary
- Denise Quist
- Hannah Belcher, Town Council Liaison
- John Morgan
- Kathleen Kane
- Jon Rodis

B. Minutes approved

C. Jeff Dougan of MOD presented an overview of MOD

- MOD's role in commission explained.
- Commission boundaries discussed.
- MOD supports local commissions with referrals and documents.
- New website information—many workshops are listed on the MOD page; can sign up for updates by email

- Finding Your Way Around: best resource in commonwealth
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/finding-your-way-around-organizations-serving-the-disability-community>
- Reviewed MOD grant cycle and process—too late for this year but consider for next.
- Connecting communities to resources.
- Housing resources and assistance.
- Building an accessible global world.
- IT support for the towns, including website accessibility standards; working with state agencies for universal design.
- Need a Self-Eval and Transition Plan to be eligible for grants— Winthrop has a Self-Evaluation Plan from 1996 that needs updating; Jeff will forward that to Denise and she will email it to committee members.
- Can link up with Evan George, about grants—he oversees ADA Program Grant
- Went over bylaws template—Winthrop is using the template
- Section 8j and Section 22G reviewed.
- 22G includes funds raised from fines which would come back to the commission to purchase wheelchairs, library materials, a ramp, etc.
- Tax Deductions for small businesses when updating accessibility features; \$15,000 for barrier removal for a business with less than 30 employees
- ADA checklist for existing facilities: www.adachecklist.org
- Check in now and then with Jeff

D. Library

- John Morgan spoke with Greg (head librarian); there is a capital plan in motion
- Invite Greg to the next meeting, Mary Lou Osborne, and the town manager.
- Denise will send an email inviting them to the next meeting

- E. Update on info session by Kathleen Kane (guardianship vs power of attorney vs health care proxy, supported decision making):
 - Late October
 - Zoom and in person (Kathleen will attend in person)
- F. Resource booklet update: Karla is working with Diane—approx. 80+ pages
Will provide a cost estimate by the next meeting.
- F. ADA Accessibility Survey: Hannah suggested using high school students to conduct the surveys using their community service hours; Denise will get in touch with Lisa Howard
- G. Winthrop Life at Large grants: Andrew is researching various grants that could be helpful to town departments, such as the library.
- H. Bylaws: Andrew circulated proposed bylaws by email; we will discuss and ratify them at the next meeting
- I. Quarterly update to the commission on money in 22G
- J. Future meeting Topics:
 - Collaboration with other town departments
 - Grants Review
 - Resource Booklet
 - Information Sessions / Drop in at the Senior Center

Next Meeting Date: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Carr