



Winthrop Commission on Disability MINUTES

Meeting Date: May 21, 2025

Commission Members In Attendance:

John Morgan
Andrew Carr
Kathleen Kane
Karla Murphy

Nancy Tufo
Susan Smith
Denise Quist
Hannah Belcher

Public Attendees: Karin Chavis, Citizen Finance Committee; Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt, CDICR & Finance Committees; Susan Carr; Austin Carr

1. Roll call

2. Approved minutes from April meeting

3. Remembrance of Gerald (Jerry) DiFranza, who passed away on April 28th.

Jerry was a former WCOD member

Commission members agreed to purchase a brick from the Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association; Nancy Tufo will get the information for WCOD

4. Guest Speaker / Peg Lyons, Executive Director of Winthrop Housing Authority

- Peg spoke about eligibility requirements, housing availability
- In Winthrop, there are 429 apartments; 348 are 1-bedroom units for people over 60
- 13 ½% of 50 apartments are for those under the age of 60
- Winthrop applicants have priorities, as do veterans
- WHA has secured Aging in Place grants and works with regional housing authorities for eligibility for other grants
- CHAMP is the universal waitlist for public housing
- Two and three-bedroom units have the biggest waitlist
- Assignment of an apartment is determined by an algorithm
- 10% of the apartments in a building with 12 or more units need to be set aside for low income
- Peg spoke about the limitation of eligibility for grants if Winthrop does not comply with 3A; WCOD has run into the same issue
- Contact Peg if there are any questions

5. Celese Ribeiro Hewitt from CDICR spoke briefly about upcoming events in June

6. Guest for June meeting: commission members agreed on inviting Al Lageee/Building Inspector; Karla will follow up with Al

7. ADA Anniversary in July

- Nancy Tufo will connect with Winthrop Public Library to see if we can set up a table to commemorate ADA 35
- Susan Smith circulated a flyer about ADA35 and asked if we would be supporters, which we agreed to

8. Members will be sworn in at the June meeting if they want to renew their term; elections will be held at the July meeting

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Karla Murphy