



Winthrop Commission on Disability MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 9, 2025

Commission Members In Attendance:

John Morgan
Kathleen Kane
Karla Murphy

Nancy Tufo
Susan Smith
Hannah Belcher

Public: Lisa Plotnik

1. Roll call

2. Approved minutes from June meeting

3. Remembrance of Gerald (Jerry) DiFranza

Two bricks were purchased from the Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association

BRICK 1: three lines

Jerry DiFranza
Advocate for
the Blind

Brick 2: three lines

Jerry DiFranza
Winthrop Commission
on Disability

Members of the commission donated funds to cover the \$200 cost; Karla mailed in forms

4. ADA Anniversary in July

- Karla & Nancy set up a bookshelf in the Winthrop Public Library with books purchased by WCOD using 22G funds; Karla made a stand up flyer for the table regarding ADA 35 and using the material provided by Susan Smith; John Morgan will pick up and display our Resource Guides on the shelf
- Karla wrote a press release for the Transcript which the Commission reviewed; Hannah will get the article into the paper
- Karla sent along the ADA35 Flyer to the TM blog; it appeared this week and will run until the rally is over

5. MBTA Bus Line

- John Morgan brought more info before the commission; there are 2 issues—the bus routes, and the bus shelters

- To get from one end of Winthrop to the other, a rider must exit the bus and wait for the other bus to complete the journey; the wait is sometimes up to 20 minutes, which can be a hardship in inclement or hot weather and is a real inconvenience to get to the other side of town
- Hannah spoke about the Bus Network Redesign; service will now stop at the Landing, which essentially cuts off all residents beyond that point from public transportation
- Lisa Plotnik also spoke about the situation; the frequency is greatly reduced, and it now takes close to an hour to go anywhere in Winthrop by bus
- The Town Council has reached out to the MBTA about these issues; Hannah will forward their correspondence with the MBTA to us, and we agreed that we can review those and then decide what to do

6. Election of Officers/ Recruitment of New Members

We discussed new officers, perhaps co-chairs; at this point, we decided to table the elections until the next meeting

7. Guest for Sept meeting: Meredith Hurley speaking about Project Lifesaver

NEXT MEETING: September 10 at 6 p.m. There will not be a meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted,
Karla Murphy