



## **Winthrop Commission on Disability MINUTES**

Meeting Date: October 8, 2025

### **Commission Members In Attendance:**

John Morgan  
Kathleen Kane  
Susan Smith

Nancy Tufo  
Karla Murphy

### **GUEST: Meredith Hurley**

#### **1. Roll call**

#### **2. Approved minutes from September meeting**

#### **3. Meredith Hurley, Health Department**

- We continued our discussion about the SafetyNet program
- Meredith connected to the Emergency Manager and Health Officer from Chelsea and Revere, plus Steve Stafford, the fire chief in Revere
- Safety Net gives a more regional approach; currently, they cover 12 residents in Chelsea, 11 of whom are children
- Matt Rodes, Director of the Senior Center, would also like to be involved
- Winthrop police would take the initiative and pinpoint which vehicles would be better; Chief Goodwin is on board
- We should stick with the same system as the surrounding towns so we form a network
- There is a Regional Dispatch System that covers Revere, Winthrop, and Chelsea
- It would be installed in 1 fire unit, two for police, and one other
- We would purchase 12 bracelets—Chelsea did the same
- The cost for Chelsea was \$20,000 for transponders and bracelets
- It runs on radio vs GPS
- The range is 1 mile max, ¼ mile min
- It is locked on the individual
- There might be FEMA money, or perhaps the Winthrop Foundation can match it
- Question about using 22G funds and including other agencies; contact Jeff Dougan
- Chief Goodwin and Chief Calandra are on board
- Train all staff sergeants
- In the last three months, two adults and three children were located in Chelsea using the system
- Who will train the family?

- Who will need this the most? Meredith will talk to Chelsea to see how they determined eligibility and priority
- Outreach could be through the schools, Housing Authority, Senior Center
- Police would do the training
- Questions around annual costs, minimum amount we can order (6 or 12?)
- Members present agreed that we could fund the initiative but also try to get other grants and funding
- Come up with more details at WCOD Nov. 12 meeting

#### **4. Recruitment of New Members**

- John will speak to Jim Letterie about assigning someone to our commission since Denise is no longer a member
- Put in an article in TM's blog about our search for new members

#### **5. Resource Guide**

- Commission members should review sections of the guide to update them

#### **6. Speaker Series**

- January 2026: ADA Accommodations by Kathleen and Jon
- February or March 2026: Staying in Your Home by BCIL

#### **7. Goals for 2025-2026**

- Hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Accessible Adventure event next August
- Work with Dept of Health and Police to establish a registry
- Project Lifesaver
- Speaker Series
- Resource Guide
- Handicapped Parking applications (do we get a copy of decisions?)

**NEXT MEETING: November 12 at 6 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karla Murphy