



Winthrop Commission on Disability MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 12, 2025

Commission Members In Attendance:

John Morgan
Kathleen Kane
Susan Smith

Nancy Tufo
Karla Murphy
Hannah Belcher

Public Attendees: Karen Chavis, Austin Carr

GUEST: Meredith Hurley

1. Roll call

2. Approved minutes from October meeting

3. Meredith Hurley, Health Department

- We continued our discussion about the SafetyNet program
- Karla connected with MOD (Mass. Office on Disability) and Jeff Dougan confirmed that this is a wonderful use of 22G funds. He added that we could also bring in additional funding to supplement the funding
- Cases would be prioritized by the different departments involved: school system. Housing authority, senior center, health dept.
- Annual costs? There is a one-year warranty and a one-year guarantee for the battery
- Each kit costs \$1900 and that includes the receiver, charger, antenna, transmitter
- Training is 8-16 hours and costs \$1500, then subsequent trainings will be Train the Trainer model
- They will put the transmitter in 3 cars: fire, police, public health
- For 10 transmitters: $\$5700 (\$1900 \times 3) + \$1500 (\text{training}) + \$5790 (10 \text{ sets}) = \$12,990$
- There is no GPS in case wi-fi goes out
- Meredith will send a formal quote
- Meredith will check with Robbie Powers about transferring funds from 22G to fund Safety Net
- Add this to Resource Book—Meredith will provide a short description and will be the contact person for the resource
- Hannah will attend the training as a representative of WCOD
- There will be a press release generated from Meredith's office
- Question: has Revere done their training? Ask Meredith if any additional trainers

- from other towns can be included to save \$\$
- Meredith will send us a formal quote

4. Special Needs Registry

- Meredith will be spearheading this initiative
- She will involve WCOD as well as Fire and Police, and other town departments

5. Speaker Series

- February 2026: ADA Accommodations by Kathleen and Jon: accommodations at work and community access; Feb 25th? At 1 pm at Senior Center
- March 2026: Staying in Your Home by BCIL; March 18th or 25th?
- May 2026: ADUs: revised regulations; an alternative to nursing homes/group homes; Hannah will present; can Section 8 be used for an ADU
- Karla will check with Matt Rodes?

6. Handicapped Parking Spaces

- Current system: Tony Marino and Denise Quist determine eligibility; much better than old system which could take a year
- In June and December, request a summary from Denise
- Karla will email Denise

7. Recruitment of New Members

- Hannah will speak to Jim Letterie about assigning someone to our commission since Denise is no longer a member as well as a liaison
- Hannah will remain on the Commission, which all members agreed would be an asset to WCOD

8. 22G Funds

- John reported that the balance is correct as indicated in Robbie Powers last email.
- John will continue to monitor the funds

9. Resource Guide

- Commission members should review sections of the guide to update them
- Wait until Safety Net info comes from Meredith so we can include that

10. Other Business

- We will be doing the Accessible Adventures event in August or September 2026
- John spoke about the dedication of the Jerry DiFranza walkway; Karla said \$200 check (second one) has still not been cashed by WIHA for the two bricks

11. Goals for 2025-2026

- Hold the 2nd Accessible Adventure event next August
- Work with Dept of Health and Police to establish a registry
- SafetyNet

- Speaker Series
- Resource Guide
- Handicapped Parking applications

NEXT MEETING: December 10 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karla Murphy