

Sharon Commission on Disabilities (CoD)
Monthly meeting: December 21, 2023
Location: Sharon Rec./Adult Ed.

Call to Order: 7:05

Attendance: Members: Geila Aronson, Susan Freidman, Susan Myerson, Todd Arnold, Rusty Callaway, and James Newton

Absent: Lois Diamond, Select Board Liaison to COD Hannah Switekowski, and Paul Remy

I. November Minutes – Approved.

II. Treasurer’s Report –

General Fund : \$500
Revolving (ticket): \$18,520.67
Donation: \$1327.97

III. Crosswalk inaccessibility concerns for residents with sight impairments

Various issues around the center of town: bricks have settled making an uneven surface, some sidewalk spaces too narrow around Sharon Market – 2.5 feet and a wheel chair cannot fit, Angels sidewalk seating can gravitate into the sidewalk, and can be hard to see or make it hard for a wheelchair to pass through. Rusty and David Greene, who originally raised this issue, to confab this month and put together a report.

IV. Accessibility at Beth Israel Lahey Primary care in Sharon.

Medical Care of Boston Management Corporation owns the building, James trying to find the property manager. Sandy Biber, a friend of the Commission, has taken training from Massachusetts Office on Disability’s Community Access Monitoring and can do an assessment of the building’s accessibility to see if there are other ADA-compliance issues other than the lack of door-opening buttons. Rusty will ask her if she is willing to take a look for the Commission.

V. Accessible seating in high school auditorium

Tony Kopacz emailed Paul and James. James will call.

VI. Post Office accessibility

James tried to contact the Postmaster but didn’t have success. Todd has talked Barbara (Postmaster) before about the lack of a door-opening button and other accessibility

issues previously and will do so again. James emailed Ted Philips to ask for advice on how best to pursue this.

VII. Sharon Standing Building Committee

Rusty will ask Matt Grosshandler to attend the January Commission meeting.

VIII. A donation to purchase special education supplies for the middle school

Various items are needed for middle school special education program to help with student's movement, dynamic seating, tools for focus, etc. for classrooms, group work, individual work. Commission will ask Victoria Russo, one of the special education coordinators at the middle school, to come in and talk to the COD about it.

IX. Liaison to the Sharon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Giela voted to be the COD liaison to DEIC.

X. Annual Report – Paul to write, due by mid-January

XI. Article for *The View* – Andrea Panone of SEPAC has written a piece regarding the Assistive Technology Fair for the January issue. Paul to write an article for February.

XII. New Business

From Todd: Hixon Farm – sand and salt problems in terms of access for residents and for assistance animals. Todd is trying to get this sorted out and will report back – add to agenda for next month.

Next meeting: January 25th, 7pm at Adult Center Conference Room.

Adjournment – 8:18