



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

March 8, 2022 Commission on Disabilities meeting minutes

This meeting of the Commission on Disabilities is held in Conference Room A, 100 Maple Ave. Shrewsbury.

Committee attendees: Diane Burns (via call), Deborah DelDotto- acting chair, Diane Tonelli, Charbel Sakr (via phone). Absent: Michael Diggins. Leonora Ryan.

In attendance: Justin Dobson-Administrative Assistant-Office of the Town Manager.

1. Meeting Called to order: 7:22pm
2. Approval of meeting minutes from January 11, 2022. Diane Tonelli motioned to accept and Seconded by Charbel and Diane DelDotto and Diane Burns accepted.
3. Appointments and meetings- none current.
4. New Business
  - a. Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) Planning Grant-Town ADA Self Evaluation presented by Justin Dobson- an initiative that the town is going through. In 2021 after town assessment the town applied for a grant for town needs. The grant was awarded at \$96,725. Plus \$5,000 = \$101,725. On December 17<sup>th</sup> the town was notified they were awarded the grant. Thus, to proceed they are partnering with the Institute for Human centered design (IHCD). As part of this process the town has created an advisory committee: Diane Burns is on this committee.
    - i. This is the planning grant: that allows for ADA self-evaluation and transition planning. There was a kick-off meeting with overview of disability in Massachusetts and Aging census and then scope of work that is planned. This should be concluded by June 2022. The grant is for this fiscal year. The final plan will include costs with variation. This includes:
      1. First is Site surveys on all town owned buildings (schools, fire station, library etc. and outdoor recreation sites) for current accessibility to disabilities. The outdoor sites don't need to be accessible, but the programs need to be accessible.
      2. Next is GIS survey of sidewalks will be assessed to determine accessibility to town/municipal buildings.
      3. Final Portion is they are going to look at Shrewsbury website and see how accessible it is-including deliverability and use. This includes all information, town departments etc.
    - ii. Capital improvement grants are available once evaluation and planning done
      1. This grant doesn't allow feasibility study prior to improvements not money for personnel to oversee projects.

- iii. Charbel Sakr explained a difficult experience he had as a parent with a disability -trying to have accessibility with his daughter’s school and her tablet access. Their needs to be an awareness on the part of the school.
    - b. Town Website: launched in 2015. These past few months, staff has been working to update website. The site plan is to look more aesthetically pleasing but – with IHCD’s review- it will be updated with accessibility as needed. For example- we want to make our website intuitive. In the beginning it will describe the committee, the minutes of meetings will be available and so on. We want all the committees and departments to be easier to navigate.
    - c. AAB Variance Request- Little Beginnings.
      - i. We received request from Architectural Access Board (AAB). They are looking for feedback.
        - 1. Deb DelDotto had no further concerns, Diane Burns had no further concerns, Diane Tonelli has no further comments, Charbel Sakr has concerns if parent cannot access second floor.
        - 2. Discussion related to Charbel’s concern reviewed role of COD members to have opportunity to express input and concerns even. The COD could write a letter to the business with some valuable information related to accessibility. The letter will come from the commission to the business and a copy to the AAB.
          - a. Diane Tonelli will compose a letter summarize.
  - 5. Old Business
    - a. Town Dementia Friendly Status: Kristen Las, Assistant Town Manager, has checked and the town- it appears – will need to restart the Process. Diane Tonelli will attend meetings run virtually by COA for Dementia Friendly Massachusetts.
    - b. AAB Variance Request- Big Boi Meat Market- this variance is the same as before and it was approved 2/28/22 with a ramp at the store front. The commission sent an explicit letter regarding concerns.
    - c. Old Schoolhouse-The town owns but operated by Town Historical Society. It currently is not used due to accessibility and aging status. Justin will follow up on Status and needs and plans.
  - 6. Commission members’ Announcements, comments, and phone Log
    - a. Sarah Nechamen, Training Specialist from Disabled Persons Protection Commission, is to be at meeting to speak to the COD May 10
    - b. MOD trainings Resource: Community Access Monitor Training next on June 8 and 15- virtually from 9-2pm
      - i. <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mon-training-events>
    - c. Board Reorganization – we will discuss at next meeting.
  - 7. Town Applications-none
  - 8. Other Business
    - a. Governor Baker has allowed call in and virtual meetings until July 16, 2022. Justin will put in a google share invite for meeting until July 16, 2022.
    - b. Next Meeting Scheduled for May 10, 2022. 7pm at Town Hall.
  - 9. Meeting adjourned 8:55pm- motioned and accepted.
- Respectfully Submitted,

Diane C. Tonelli  
Commission on Disabilities Secretary  
Town of Shrewsbury