



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Commission on Disabilities Meeting

REMOTE MEETING:

Google Meet: (US) +1 314-666-1511 PIN: 399 017 983#

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building

100 Maple Avenue

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

March 13, 2023

To: Commission on Disabilities

Deb DelDotto – Chairperson

Important Notice: Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 (Senate Bill 3007) signed into law by the Governor on July 16, 2022 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the **Commission on Disabilities** will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. All meetings and hearings listed in the agenda will also be done so through remote participation. Reasonable public access is afforded to join this meeting.

1. Call to order 7:05.
 - a. Members present: Charbel Sakr-Yes, Diane T. Yes, Diane Burns yes, Leonora Ryan- yes, Deb DelDotto- Yes, Ashley Falandys- Yes
 - b. Staff Member- Justin Dobson-
 - c. Speaker- Hollie Lucht- COA Director- yes, Cynthia Willis- Transportation Coord
2. Approve meeting minutes from January 10th, 2023. The Motion to accept the was stated by Diane Tonelli and seconded by Diane Burns.
 - a. All approved: Charbel Sakr-Yes, Diane T. Yes, Diane Burns yes, Leonora Ryan- yes, Deb DelDotto- Yes, Ashley Falandys- Yes
3. Appointments/Meetings
 - a. Presentation by Hollie Lucht, Director of the Shrewsbury Council on Aging, and Cynthia Willis, Transportation Coordinator
 - i. The daily rides are from 9am to 3pm. There are non-ADA and ADA service. There are 4 vans- WRTA and 2 white vans from Mass DOT. The gaps. ADA service is in the ‘bubble’ of ¾ mile from the public routes.
 - ii. Diane Burns shared that her use is limited but it works well from Shrewsbury to Worcester. Diane’s daughter uses it to and from work. They call ahead as soon as able. Cynthia stated they take calls up to 30 days in advance and no less than 48 business hours. ADA riders can call up to 4:30pm the day before but she suggests that you call ahead as much as able so they can get the appointment.
 - iii. Charbel stated he had taken the van before. He asked about the ‘bubble’ requirements for the destination, the times for ADA, and asked if he needs to only call COA in Shrewsbury.

1. Cynthia replied:
 - a. that only an ADA has limitation with pickup and, but non-ADA can accommodate. The base charge is \$2.75- though charges are still suspended until June 2023.
 - b. that ADA can start as early as 5:30am and as late as 8:30pm Mon – Fri and a little less on Saturday.
 - c. ADA can call COA Shrewsbury during the week, but you can call PBSI on the weekend.
 - d. Scheduling accommodates the client for the appointment – ADA times require less than 1 hour on the van.
 2. Cynthia was clear that she would meet personally with a client to understand their needs and requests.
 - iv. Justin Dobson shared that often there is a request for someone with a disability serve on the committee. Justin stated that he will bring information to the committee if a request is made.
4. New Business
- a. Commission on Disabilities members’ announcements, comments, phone log
 - i. Town parking study- there is a public information session 3/15/23 at 1pm. The goal is to be more environmentally friendly. The concern to the commission would be to ensure that the # of spaces for handicap.
 - ii. Call from resident is regarding Furniture heights in public- there is no requirements but there is a bench height.
 - iii. Arrowood park Community preservation grant for building a playground. The next step is to present to town meeting. That would be a place to ask about accessibility.
 1. Ashley lives near the part and knows about the process.
 - b. Discussion of braille books at Library. Charbel requested this be on the agenda. Deb spoke with the director of the library. Shrewsbury doesn’t have many braille books because the Worcester library has a large service of talking books/audio books that can be delivered to the home.
 - i. Charbel stated that as a consumer he wasn’t able to get a book which limits equal opportunity. This is a project that is worth working on. Charbel stated he would like to work on this as a project.
 - ii. Justin stated that, after review of Worcester Talking books program, that there is a grant option to review for local access
 - iii. A subcommittee of Deb DelDotto, Charbel Sakr and Diane Tonelli will get some information and a plan to present at next meeting.
5. Old Business
- a. Continued discussion of Library Event with a focus on disability:
 - i. Ashley presented that she was looking for a virtual event but the cost is high. The process is in the works for
 - b. The increase handicap fee was approved the process now is to get the fee divided for funds going to the Commission on Disability.
6. Town Applications
7. At 8:32 a Motion to adjoin the meeting was made by Diane Burns, Diane Tonelli seconded.
 - a. Members: Charbel Sakr-Yes, Diane T. Yes, Diane Burns yes, Leonora Ryan- yes, Deb DelDotto- Yes, Ashley Falandys- Yes

Next meeting scheduled for May 9th, 2023 or earlier if necessary.
 Respectfully submitted, Diane C Tonelli