



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

May 10, 2022 Commission on Disabilities meeting minutes

1. Call to order at : 7:10pm
2. Attendees:
 - a. Diane Tonelli- In Person
 - b. Diane Burns- In Person
 - c. Deborah DelDotto- In Person
 - d. Justin Dobson- In Person
 - e. Charbel Sakr (via phone)
 - f. Michael Diggins - excused
 - g. Leonora Ryan- absent
3. Review and approve meeting minutes from March 8, 2022
 - a. Corrections – none
 - b. Motion to approve:
 - i. Deb DelDotto – yes
 - ii. Diane Burns – yes
 - iii. Diane Tonelli – yes
 - iv. Charbel Sakr – yes
4. Appointments/Meetings
 - a. Michael Diggins officially stepped down from the board. That means we have two positions open: one with disabilities and other can be family member has disabilities. There are two applications pending.
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Sarah Nechamen, Outreach and Training Specialist at the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC)
 - i. Sarah presented DPPC (Disabled Persons Protection Commission). It has a hotline where people can report abuse by a caregiver. DPPC serves people ages 18-59 who have disabilities – needs in their daily routine (i.e.: medications, showering, live in needs). DPPC fits in between Department of Children and Families and EOEA – serving those who are > 60 years old.
 1. Calls go to the abuse hotline. The ‘live’ person will ask questions. The person reporting just needs suspicion – not proof to report.
 2. The report then goes to an investigator and if abuse did happen, then counseling, support, staff training can occur.
 3. Caregivers that are found to have abused cannot work in that population anymore per DPPC.
 4. Investigators, other agencies, State Police Detective Unit, and Sexual Assault Response teams support to the process.

5. Mandated reporters were defined.
 6. Diane Burns recommended adding this to the Town website
 7. Deb DelDotto suggested we get materials for the library.
- b. Discussion occurred related to the authorization of board meeting remote participation pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20E. It was reviewed that in the Open Meeting Law – COD may allow remote participation in the local commission – allowing a quorum not be ‘present’ but a chair needs to be present. The plan would be to make it clear in the meeting minutes. With a hybrid meeting voting will have to be done yb roll call.
 - i. Diane Burns presented a motion the proposal to accept the Open Meeting Law allowance for remote participation to meet quorum – the chair will be presented. This will stand for one year. Motion moved by Deborah DelDotto and seconded by Diane Tonelli
 - ii. Vote: Deborah DelDotto – yes, Diane Tonelli – yes, Diane Burns – yes, Charbel Sakr – yes.
 - c. Articles 37-40 of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Justin summarized that in a review of the articles it was recommended that the COD be informed of them related to their content. These articles are on the agenda for Town Meeting on May 21st.
 - i. Article 37 – special fund related to tax relief. This would be for low-income residents with disabilities or low-income seniors.
 - ii. Article 38 – increase exemptions up to 100% on taxes for veterans, blind residents, and veteran’s spouses. Currently the Town awards 150-200 exemptions.
 - iii. Article 39 and 40 – amends the asset and income limits, respectively – allowing Town to adjust those limits (compared to cost-of-living adjustment).
 - d. COD Board Re-Organization
 - i. Diane burns presented that she is stepping down from the Chair position. The re-organization will include putting in position the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Diane Tonelli and Diane Burns nominated Deb DelDotto as Chair. Deb DelDotto nominated Diane Tonelli to continue as Secretary. Vice-Chair is a role that splits responsibility with Chair, supports process. Charbel reviewed and accepted nomination.
 1. Move to vote on the re-organization:
 - a. Diane Burns nominated Deborah DelDotto as Chair
 - i. Deborah accepted.
 - ii. Vote: Diane Burns – yes, Charbel Sakr – yes, Diane Tonelli – yes, Deb DelDotto – yes
 - b. Diane Tonelli nominated Charbel Sakr as Vice Chair
 - i. Charbel Sakr accepted
 - ii. Vote: Diane Burns – yes, Diane Tonelli – yes, Deb DelDotto – yes, Charbel Sakr – yes.
 - c. Diane Burns nominated Diane Tonelli as Secretary
 - i. Diane Tonelli accepted nomination
 - ii. Voted: Diane Burns – yes, Diane Tonelli – yes, Charbel Sakr – yes, Deborah DelDotto – yes
6. Old Business
 - a. Review letter for Little Beginnings
 - i. Edited completed on one line. Diane to send.

- b. Update on Town Dementia Friendly Status
 - i. Renee D'Argento, outreach coordinator of Senior Center, Justin Dobson and Diane Tonelli attended a virtual presentation by EOEA regarding Aging and Dementia Friendly Massachusetts. The items presented will be helpful to re-start Aging and Dementia Friendly Shrewsbury. Diane Tonelli will bring outline of creating plan to next session. We will invite Renee to attend next meeting.
- c. Update on ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan progress:
 - i. We are nearing 90% completion of review of outdoor spaces. Suggestions are for the benefit for the community – including safety and aesthetics. This includes roads and paths. A draft reporting regarding non-discriminatory procedures; accommodations are included in this area.
7. Commission members' announcements/comments/phone log
 - a. Diane Tonelli is attending the virtual Mass.gov training "Community Access Monitoring" on June 8th and 15th.
8. Town Applications – none
9. Other Business:
 - a. Deborah DelDotto thanked Diane Burns for her years of leadership and dedication as Chair of the Commission on Disabilities.
 - b. Charbel Sakr asked the Commission to look closer at 'accessibility' definition. Deborah DelDotto added that making a clearer definition. Diane Burns added that accessibility is for all residents.

Next meeting scheduled for July 12, 2022 or earlier if necessary
Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Tonelli
Secretary of Commission on Disabilities.