



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

September 13, 2022 Commission on Disabilities meeting minutes

1. September 13, 2022 Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
 - a. Meeting members present: (In person) Lee Ryan, Deb DelDotto, Diane Tonelli, (via phone) Ashley Falandys, Charbel Sakr. a. Visitor:
 - b. Visitors:
 - i. Justin Dobson
 - ii. Kim Monson
2. Minutes of July 12, 2022 reviewed – date to be added to the top of the page.
 - a. Motion to accept
 - i. Lee Ryan – yes
 - ii. Deb Deldotto – yes
 - iii. Diane Tonelli – yes
 - iv. Ashley Falandys – yes
 - v. Charbel Sakr – yes
3. Welcome to Ashley Falandys – new COD member.
4. Appointments and meetings
 - a. No new appointments or meetings
5. New Business
 - a. ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan- draft reviewed- Location, estimated costs and number of barriers spread sheet reviewed. This is with respect to inside barriers of town buildings, school buildings and outside barriers throughout town. The total amount estimated is \$1.82 million dollars. Now the town has completed this process the town is now able to submit for a grant – this is up to \$250,000. That grant is submitted to Mass Office of Disability with some ancillary items with design plan, project plan.
 - i. Review of specific adaptation in the community and schools related to visual impairment.
 1. Feedback from the commission was related to the IACD planning committee related to access in schools.
 2. Low vision adaptation examples and ideas were reviewed.
 3. Diane will send Justin Dobson information of grant

- b. 2 Grants: for Old School House at Church St and Old School House at Old Mill Rd. The applications for Shrewsbury Historical Society's CPA project eligibility due to historic. Part of Community Preservation Act- first grant cycle.
 - i. The Old Mill Road – District Number 5 – request to pay consultant to assess for upgrade potential and planning for accessibility. The Town does not own Old Mill School house and was not reviewed by consultant with Self evaluation plan. They are requesting \$1,994 for consultant fee
 1. Discussion included: graveyard nearby, use for historical teaching.
 - ii. The Old School House on Church Street is town owned and items were assessed by consultant and are ready to proceed and looking for funding of \$17,150 total.
 1. They are open to the public for events and tours and better safer access. Current ramp is not safe for use without upgrade.
 - iii. COD agreeing to write a letter of support to CPA applications
 1. Lee Ryan – in favor
 2. Charbel Sakr – in favor
 3. Deb Deldotto – in favor
 4. Ashley Falandys – in favor
 5. Diane Tonelli – in favor
6. Old Business:
 - a. Continued discussion M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 22(g). This law allows the town to take money from fines related to handicap parking and have the COD oversee the use of the funds to the benefit of the accessibility needs of the town. There are 156 municipalities that have CODs and approximately 33% adopted this law. This, if we adopt this law, would accrue and stay in the account year after year. The plan, also, would include an increase to the current fine of \$100 to \$300. The town general fund would still get \$100 and the COD would get the \$200 into their fund. It was noted that The COD spend funds, now, after review with the selectmen and town manager and spending from this fund would follow this same oversight process. If 33 tickets are issued yearly and most are collected there is potential for greater that \$4-5,000.00.
 - i. The fund use would be to the benefit of the community whether buying items to enhance accessibility or establish a grant process where public can request funds meeting the standards of the commission on disabilities goals and objectives.
 - ii. Discussion included: need to keep the handicap parking clear for use as needed; cost increase would be in one step; COD would have to build in the role of treasurer to support program/process; focus can be to work toward diversity and inclusion.
 - iii. Justin will collect data on what local towns are connecting for fines.
 - iv. Next steps to agreement to adopt this act. Diane Tonelli motioned to adopt this law. Charbel Sakr seconded.
 1. COD vote roll:
 - a. Lee Ryan – yes
 - b. Deb Deldotto – yes

- c. Diane Tonelli – yes
 - d. Charbel Sakr – yes
 - e. Ashley Falandys – yes
7. Commission Members announcements and phone log: none
8. Town Applications
- a. Review of process for approval. Justin explained that the process is that COD serves as an advisor to the town manager and selectman. COD also offers education to those two bodies.
 - i. Two application types: COD members can go into locations and review.
 - 1. Architectural access board AAB- which focuses on accessibility. The application we receive from them is usually related to a variance- either temporary or permanent. Temporary will grant ‘occupancy’ and start the business. They must follow up with a permanent plan. In this process the COD comments on variance’s impact on town members use and access.
 - 2. Internal town application for licenses. The Board of Selectman oversee licenses. When a business is looking to apply for a license the BOS office will send request from town departments their input related to their department. The chair of the COD is also contacted. They are looking for input/feedback from the COD. Deb, current chair, will receive this information and share. The COD members are then asked to read and reply with comments. It’s important for timely responses to chair from members.
 - ii. Upon review and discussion, it was agreed that Justin will receive minutes from secretary and send out right away to members. One week from next meeting he will get agenda from Chair and send minutes again, agenda and any needed attachments. Secretary will send PDF of final minutes to Justin for posting – after meeting approval and corrections.
9. Meeting to adjourn at 9:07pm – all approved
- a. Lee Ryan – yes
 - b. Deb Deldotto – yes
 - c. Diane Tonelli – yes
 - d. Charbel Sakr – yes
 - e. Ashley Falandys – yes

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Tonelli
Commission on Disabilities secretary