

**Commission On Disability - Minutes**  
**October 6, 2008**  
**Natick Senior Center**

**Called to Order: 6:50 PM**

**Present:** Joan Sherizen, Sue Fitzgerald, Linda Bernfeld, Jen Harnish, Ken Chernack, John MacGillivray, Russell Thome (advisory guest), George Donahue (from Watertown COD - guest speaker)

**Absent:** Ron Ordway

**Minutes:** of 9/08/2008 - Accepted

**Correspondence:**

- 1) ADA Compliance Guide – Can we get this electronically and post to our website? Can we get this in “screen reader” format? Jen will research this.
- 2) Email from Lt Lauzon – He was not able to attend tonight’s meeting, but did come during the winter (ice storm – we did not have a quorum). He is encouraging members of the Police Dept to be vigilant in monitoring HP parking violations.
- 3) Architectural Access Bd – Novell at Natick – variance requests were granted (impracticable to reverse already-completed construction)
- 4) Careers and the Disabled – Summer 2008 edition

**Treasurer’s Report:**

John has latest report from Comptroller, listing some of the info that we need, \$ for rink doors, \$32,600 as balance-no deposits for 2008 are listed – Why not?

**Awareness & Access:**

- 1) We could put an engraved plaque on the rink doors (i.e., donated by COD). This should include Braille, as well.
- 2) Lively discussion was held, concerning special police details to do HP tickets – **Is it worthwhile? Will the monies collected offset the cost to the Committee? Why are we paying the police to do something that is already in their job description?**
- 3) We discussed hiring professionals to conduct sensitivity training for police. John needs to talk to the town – do they pay for this or do we

pay for this? George will tell John whom to contact in Watertown for more info.

- 4) Russell has attended training as Community Access Monitor. He could be a great asset for us in the future. Could we do a CAM training session here in Natick? We would need to arrange a room for the training and would need to publicize it. George will provide John with some info on this.
- 5) Watertown has meeting for “Consumer Issues”, which are publicized on website and in town newspaper. Sometimes the meeting will feature a guest speaker.
- 6) E911 – Handicapped people register for this service, in case of emergency. We need to find out about this through the Police Dept.

### **New Business:**

- 1) We should consider spell checking any Braille info that is included in signs.
- 2) Ken suggested that we could use the Watertown COD website as a model for ours. The Cambridge Alliance Committee also has links to pertinent info and excellent websites.
- 3) We would like the Bldg inspector to come to our Nov meeting.
- 4) We would like to get an architect on the board, to help us evaluate bldg/facility plans before construction.
- 5) Ken and John will work together to compose an email, asking to include COD feedback upon review of bldg plans. This should be sent to the appropriate people, including Martha White and Pat Ruffert.
- 6) George Donahue - Watertown spends money on education for Committee members and for the public at large. They have also provided accessible screen readers at their Library. They provide closed captioning of Selectman meetings on their local cable station. Their committee also pays a website developer. George will send us “accessible link” info.
- 7) We would like to invite Joe Weiss to be a guest again at a meeting.
- 8) Accessible dining guide
- 9) **Accessible voting** – The Low Vision group has worked on obtaining accessible voting machines that will be tested at their next meeting.

**Miscellaneous: The next meeting is Monday, Nov 10 at 6:30 PM at the Natick Police Station - We need to decide how people feel about possibly moving the meeting start time ahead to 6 PM for the future. Please give this some thought and we will discuss this at the Nov 10 meeting. Thanks.**

**Adjourn: 8:40 PM**