

Stoughton Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes: 04/27/2023

Present: Allison Puliafico, Ann Maderer, Michael Hardman, Charlotte Mullen (Chair)

Absent: Christiana Odunze

A motion to open the meeting was made by Allison Puliafico and seconded by Michael Hardman

A roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

The meeting was opened at 7:01 p.m. and held virtually on the Zoom platform.

There were no citizens comments.

Minutes from the meeting of 03/23/2023 were not available for review and vote.

Kathleen Crogan-Camara from the Randolph Commission on Disabilities joined our meeting to share work that is being done in Randolph. Her areas of interest include advocacy for caretakers and identifying healthcare gaps. Randolph holds a support group for veterans. We shared some of the efforts we have made here in Stoughton. We will continue to communicate with Randolph to explore options for shared information and programming.

Charlotte Mullen has recently met with Tom Calter, the new Town Manager. She shared the work this Commission has accomplished, along with future plans. She also shared with him the need for the town to create a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to be in compliance with ADA laws. Mr. Calter also shared how his hometown of Kingston has used CART transcription at Town Meeting to improve access for residents with reduced hearing. This will be explored and planned for with the fall Special Town Meeting.

Charlotte Mullen shared her recent introduction to the Planning Board.

Michael Hardman noted that he continues to work on a draft of bylaws for this Commission, and will need to meet with Town Counsel for review and recommendations.

A discussion on accessibility for town board and committee meetings was held. While the Assistive Listening System is available in the Great Hall of Town Hall, and there are signs indicating that, there needs to be an announcement at the start of each meeting to inform attendees that it is available. The Chair will draft an email or letter that can be sent to board and committee chairs.

We will invite the Stoughton Fire Department to our May meeting. The discussion to include communication with residents with varying disabilities. The possibility of providing Fire and

Rescue with laminated picture cards for communication was discussed and will be shared with the Fire Department at our next meeting.

Michael Hardman continues to work on the programming for SMAC television. Target date for filming is June, 2023.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Michael Hardman and seconded by Ann Maderer. A roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be held remotely on May 25, 2023 on the Zoom platform.