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Stoughton Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes: 09/21/2023

Present: Charlotte Mullen, Christiana Odunze, Michael Hardman, Ann Maderer

A motion to open the meeting was made by Ann Maderer and seconded by Michael Hardman.

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

The meeting was opened at 7:03 p.m. and held virtually on the Zoom platform.

There were no citizen's comments.

Minutes from the meetings on 06/22/23 were approved.

The town has received notification that Stoughton will be awarded \$50,000 as a Community Compact Grant to perform the required Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The town will have two years to complete this. The town will be working with The Collins Center at UMass-Boston to complete this work. Once the contract has been signed, a Scope of Services document will be issued. We have asked to receive a list of other towns that have worked with the Collins Center for this type of work so that we can review the reports to anticipate what steps will be involved to prepare for the process and assist the town with completion.

The fall Special Town Meeting has been moved to the middle school due to scheduling conflicts at the high school. This will create significant technical challenges related to CART transcription, and as such, this accommodation will be deferred to the spring Annual Town Meeting at the high school. We will try and obtain a rental Assistive Listening system.

A warrant article related to ADA Accessibility has been added by the town to the fall Town Meeting warrant. Funding requests to include modifications at the senior center, library, and a handicapped-accessible golf cart for Cedar Hill are included. (Following the meeting, we were informed that this article has been removed.)

During the Annual Town Meeting, this commission approved a budget of \$7,000, which had been recommended by the Select Board. A discussion of a budget for this funding was held and will be continued at the next meeting.

Plans for a new survey of citizens were discussed. The committee working on plans for the railroad station used a consultant to create the survey with a QR code to increase participation. A similar format will be explored for a disabilities survey. The survey was deferred as the commission would like to focus on Self-Evaluation.

The pictorial communication cards have been printed and now require lamination before they can be donated to the Fire Department. Ann Maderer offered to help bring the cards to the schools for lamination.

Discussion of a program on SMAC local access TV was deferred. We will attempt to have this completed in spring 2024.

This commission typically does not meet in November or December due to the holidays; however, given the number of items on each agenda, it was proposed that a meeting be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023. A roll call vote was held, and all were in favor.

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 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held remotely on October 26, 2023, on the Zoom platform.