

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday June 21st, 2018 - Town Hall - Rm. 201**

Attendance: Chairman - Jim Ross, Evan Levinson, Stacie Curran, Tom Holleman, LuAnn Giunta, Marina Derman, Diane Johnson. Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault & Michele Battone

8:35am - Jim Ross - called to order

Summary of last month's minutes - Vote for Approval of May 2018 minutes- Diane 1st/Tom 2nd - All in favor.

Voluntary Registry - Sustainable CT (Pippa Ader) - discussion - The Voluntary Registry program could get the Town points for Sustainable Equity Action piece by following all of the guidelines - beginning with this meeting, giving the public opportunity to express concern, gather information, and all working together. Had to be an action not started - timing was of importance.

Lieutenant Matthew Gouvea (from Westport PD): Filled us in of 1st response - information they gather is piecemeal. Dispatcher gives info to Officer responding If this new plan goes into effect: going forward, info would come to Human Services, and shared to the Police Dept.

It would be helpful for them to know: Autistic child in-house, doesn't like sirens, or Diabetic in home - reaction may show like alcoholism, etc.

This brings added advantage, hitting high notes quickly.

Elaine: how does Mental Health issue to fit in, maybe suicidal could be coded differently?

Tom; discussion around their CAD system

This program has to be Voluntary & have Confidentiality

Town Attorney - reviewed, saw no problem - but we feel it needs disclaimer - don't want families to feel that have shared this info to the police, now, liability is passed to officers. (Town Attorney to review again)

We will need to market it well.

Commission Q: How to know if it is working - Police will hear Positive or Negative, beneficial, and how to tweak the program.

JimR: - Thinking about those with Visual impairment and "calling 911" - other options; Life Alert Systems.

Public Q:

David Dressler - How will you know if a person calling is registered with a disability?

A: typically tied to address

(Discussions around the from and thoughts — and qualification for guardianship)

Sarah Montilier: Can she bring her son in for face-to-face introductions so name with face if he has inappropriate reaction in public/social settings. And, what if the adult child is in another Town? Police - it won't populate their data.

(Approx. 60 officers in Westport)

Lori Luskin: What about adding a photo to the CAD (Discussions)

Renee East: (With CLASP Homes) - DDS requires a snapshot/form - lists triggers, disorders, photos, medications, wanderer, etc., and they have copy of same attached to lanyard around person, or in wallet. Also, have identifiers on doors, needs oxygen, etc.

Police could do an in department training - private training to share with same symbols, etc., as is done in group homes.

David Dressler: *“Everyone with a disability needs this system. It is essential for everyone, especially those who cant advocate for themselves”*

VOTE - by the Commission on People with Disabilities to proceed with the volunteer Registry? Motion: Diane - to go ahead with the energy & resources, to continue working and drafting in pursuit of Police Voluntary Registry.

All in favor.

Pippa A:

Does not feel we need a separate vote for CT Sustainability Equity Action to go forward.

REV-It-Up-Baby:

(Register Educate Vote) - Michelle B. - July 16th - starts National Disability week for Voter Registration - Promote Community inclusion and awareness, to get all folks registered to vote.

(Michelle is developing it for Westport - trying to pair it with an existing event or YMCA, or Levitt)

Suggestion: Partner with Woman League of Voters

JULY - Committee discussion - re: just having for session in July to work on Registry & REV it up.

Elaine D: Staff report: - ADA - Self Assessment of our Public Building - need to identify public spaces/building the Two owns.

Jim & Tom went to ADA conference -Nationally, 80% of buildings are not ADA compliant.

There is NO Grandfathering for ADA.

Signage & Communication is Key.

CAPE - Discussions

Compo - voted Yes

Affordable Housing: Riverside building is off the table. “1177”, is accepting applications for affordable housing.

Elaine D will copy us on the Affordable housing Committee meetings

* Does the Committee have a position on Segregation?

* Maybe Mary Young, from P & Z can come for a meeting and explain to us.

Transportation:

Diane - Lots of people's minds are focused on transportation - especially on our aging and disabled population - groups are trying to think together to combine efforts with Surrounding Towns to create something.

Back to ADA - there is an ADA coordinator (legal position) - (ours is Eileen Flute), and there is a presentation if we wish to see it -

Jim - Spoke to 5 titles (Employment, Public spaces, Commercial Businesses, Telecommunication and a catch-all) - Laws are there to be followed - we must comply - Jim will share it to P & Z and our ADA coordinator.

ex: Longshore litigation/Pearl and Handicap access (discussion)

* maybe a sub-committee on the Self-Assessment of our own Municipal Building.

* Elaine D - will send google for date (July 12th) - July Meeting will be Work session, August - Summer vacation - no meeting.

Motion to Adjourn - LuAnn & Diane J.

10:15am

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacie Curran