

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday May 16, 2019 - Town Hall - Rm. 201**

**Attendance:** Chairman-Jim Ross, Tom Holleman, Stacie Curran, Marina Derman, Diane Johnson.

Excused: Evan Levinson, LuAnn Giunta

Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault & Michelle Bottone

Guest: Sharuna Mahesh

8:40 - Call to order

Approval of Feb 28th minutes (March and April meetings were cancelled) - Diane, made motion - Tom 1st, Marina 2nd - All in favor

Newsworthy:

Jim R.

\*Regional meeting held(discussion)

\*My Team Triumph in full swing

\*Shuttle Bus funding - Denial overturned by RTM - As a community we support Inclusion

\*Lower Fairfield/for Families event - well attended, next will be July 18th, Toquet Hall (Flow of events - starts broad, gets narrower each meeting)

Elaine D. - How does it fit with State Model, and how do we organize for advocacy? Office continues receiving calls for social events, activities, etc. for the 22-55 age group. Diane - Discussion of Casey's Place - how can we do similarly, without getting to labor intensive as Connections did?.

Elaine pitched to Rotary - Mentor Program, pick up an individual, create support, etc.; logistics to be worked through.

Jim: Suggests both - regular including and special events for Disability community.

Elaine - Can we get all Town commissions together to help support events?

Audience - Sharuna Mahesh: - Suggest continue to plug away at Senior Center.

Transition - She sits on committee with Sharon Halstead of School district - these adults struggle with jobs when they finish their SHS training and 18-21 program. Sharuna spoke with Jim Ross. Can we get the Chamber of Commerce, connect the business community, and the moral imperative. - Sharing Successful narrative, or invite DMA for a panel discussion vs. a video? (Equal right to pay, or moral pay)

**ACTION** - This Commission will create a sub-committee, figure out what we are asking for, etc. then maybe host a forum/panel for local businesses. (late summer/early fall)

Housing - need continues for CREATIVE approaches to non-institutional living, and shared living models - how do people make the connections.

Discussion - Hartford's legislative battle over LON score (level of need)

**ACTION:** This Commission will create sub-committee to create social, recreational connections events, modeling Casey's Place - or partnering to host events in Westport. (summer/fall)

Human Services Update:

Budget: approved for next year - 2 new full time employees to be hired to support & benefit the Town - (Elaine will send description if we know anyone)

Regional Meeting - next will probably be in the fall - have to get the mission/action to work together.

ADA Self-Assessment - Architect hired, need to do self-assessment of all departments, need to provide access to all, then transition plan follows, \$ to implementation. (and room for grievance procedure)

July marks 25th Anniversary of the ADA

Elaine - Her office wrote for & received grant (\$500.00) - to celebrate, we will plan something at the beach - new restrooms, sidewalks, etc. - Watch for event dates: July.

Going Forward - we will have June CPD meeting, July will be celebration - no formal meeting and August can be our Planning meeting.

Reappointments:

2019 - Tom, LuAnn, Evan, Stacie. 2020 - Jim, Marina, Diane.

Transportation:

Diane J: - Attended Transportation - Main to Train study - concerns: bike safety, parking on road - fine line not to be disruptive to traffic flow or negatively impact businesses. Additionally, she attended sidewalk hearing - Funding approved for 5ft. wide sidewalk, connecting to Town - Canal St., to Wassell/Daybreak intersection to Town.

Additional comments:

Tom: Can we go green/paperless at our meetings? Elaine will ask other members and have some available for those who may need.

Meeting Adjourned - 10:10am