

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2019 - LIBRARY**

**Attendance:** Tom Holleman, Stacie Curran, Marina Derman. Diane Johnson, Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault & Michelle Bottone - Absent - Jim Ross

9:10am - Call to order

Tom H: June 2019 Minutes - Diane makes 1st motion to approve, Stacie -2nd, All on Favor

Guests in audience today:

Doug Rifkin, Sal Liccione, Sharuna Mahesh, Markley Rizzi, and State Rep. Johnathan Steinberg

Westport Library - Jocelyn Barandiaran

Guest Speaker - Steve Smith, Westport Building Dept. - addressing ADA & Accessibility Discussions: Ramps, Handrails, Complaints enforced through legislature – gave a couple of examples dealing with bumps on Main Street, etc.

Our local government likes to hold a higher standard.

Reasonable accommodations can get you through ADA compliance

Our Town Attorney Eileen Flug, is our Town ADA Compliance representative

ADA - also used to protect employers from Job discrimination

(Town Hall has accommodations for hearing impaired - we need new devices)

The Formula for ADA:

- Twenty percent of the cost of a renovation must be spent on ADA compliance, with entry as first order of concern. Bathrooms, same threshold – That's how older businesses, with no renovations, need not do any ADA accessibility
- Parking: Town should add more Handicap parking - first place to start is with Pete R. Parking does not seem to be triggered when a space renovation permit is being pulled
- Newer Building Code: Every change in elevations considered a step & requires a handrail and color change/contrast.
- Historical Buildings - get a special standard/consideration

Jocelyn: Update on Library Book-sale piece

Received 501(c)(3) status - separate from the library

They are parenting with Star & Abilis - adults were brought to help with July sale

They received grant from State - DDS (\$50,000)

Have meeting with pro-bono partnership - want them to work on Employment Manuals, interview procedures, etc.

Construction Annex - delivery Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2020 - they will have small fundraiser, and get their story out.

Sharuna & Linda are amazing heading this venture

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Johnathan Steinberg - not in session now, has time to meet all new commissioners of state agencies

Sal - please keep public transportation as priority and the idea of "if you see something, say something" and take a picture

Elaine – Encouraged members to attend ADA training event.

Marina - ARC – Family-to-Family lecture at Toquet Hall - Sept 24th 6:30-8:00pm

P & Z: - At the upcoming meeting scheduled for Oct 3rd, it was encouraged to have residents voice their opinion regarding the Myrtle Ave Improvement project

Caregiver Support Group - at the Westport Center for Senior "Activities - OPEN TO ALL AGES! and to all people giving care/support to others. Beginning Wednesdays - Sept. 25 12:30PM -1:30PM. (Elaine will send to Stacie to circulate to Sped community)

Elaine - Gail Kelly is the new Fair Housing Municipal agent for Westport. She can give legal assistance for any discrimination around housing, and she can help if a case needs to be heard.

Jennifer Bangser - from the Westport Library joined us - available to give any private tours of the library for our group

Meeting adjourned - 10:25AM