

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday July 15th, 2021 - 9:00am-10:00am**  
**ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Jim Ross, Marina Derman, Stacie Curran, Tom Holleman, Doug Rivkin.

Absent: Diane Johnson & Joe Anastasi.

Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault, Liz Atkin. Joined: Sue Pfister - Westport Center for Senior Activities

Guests: Peter Gold, Westport Transport, and Sal Liccione, RTM & Pippa Bell-Ader, Sustainable Westport.

Jim R - **Call Meeting to Order**

Review June minutes **Motion to approve minutes** - Tom 1st, Doug 2nd - All in favor.

Human Services: Elaine D

- Camperships/busy
- Food Insecurity/ "Filling In The Blanks" - Free and reduced Lunch - misses out on Fed dollars here, on weekends, & in Summer - this assists.
- Seeing increase in Adults with disabilities living with aging parents, who become less able to assist.

Transportation - Peter Gold - has lots of restrictions but wants to try and add two stops ( Sr. Center & Trader Joes) and increase couple hours time on either side. Not yet approved (would like CPD to support his request when the time comes.)

WCSA - Sue P., - Senior Center has had a happy reopening July 1st - most happy. some still nervous re., covid.

Public Comment:

Pippa Bell Ader - Its been 3 years, they need to re-certify Sustainable Westport through Sustainable CT- need to prove what's being done differently - She is will to go meet, interview, connect with, those unable to get to meetings, or less inclined to go to meetings....wants to reach those less engaged.

Elaine - Mental Health definition from co-worker: Mental health is to feel "Lovable, Capable, Connected" This definition speaks to issues of diversity, Inclusion, & Equity, as well. We all want to feel connected to one another

Sal L - Bus Shelter topic - thank you Pippa, Sue, Danielle Dobin, - hoping \$ will be approve.

- Marina - Asking how Sustainable Westport is linked to CPD?
- Pippa - Sustainable Ct says: Let the people tell you where the issues are - It's an Equity Issue - required for re-certification. They need to demonstrate

communication and hold a sustainability event. Were people able to attend? Can you get info to them if they can't attend.

Employment is for Everyone - project being worked on and Jim R. involved in DRCT ( Disability Rights CT) –

Elaine sent notice of Town Hall meeting - encourage all to sign up - and info shared on the newest passing of Transition services to Age 22. Big great change.

Stacie - raised question on maybe creating a Town Explorer program in conjunction with the Westport Police Dept. Elaine, et all, like idea – to be explored

Legislative update: Marina:

- Budget Season just closed/ended, Its the best for Disabilities we have seen in years
- (Jordan Sheff - DDS, shared announcement)
- Need now to find way to make big changes.
- This is due in part to good advocacy, family, stakeholder efforts, and State having a good year.

Jim R - Back to Employment is for Everyone:

- Elaine will circulate PowerPoint - if we can all review and comment, soon... and Elaine will circulate Doodle poll, to see when we can get meeting together mid-August. Bunch of groups coming together - to engage the various groups Employer and Employees. We can help promote and connect, but must keep clear we do not provide the actual support service. (individuals can volunteer here and again but its not the burden of CPD to do the supporting)

Tom H - A big Plug for Remarkable Theater - first time he went, with daughter who was in the pre-reel (to Breakfast Club) he was so impressed with the operation and publicly applauds the RT group members.

Motion to adjourn - Stacie & Tom - 10:02am