

Westport Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday October 21st - 9:00am
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chairman - Jim Ross, Marina Derman, Stacie Curran, Tom Holleman, Doug Rivkin, Diane Johnson, Joe Anastasi.

Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault

Those in attendance who wish to identify: Sal Liccione

9:05 - Call to Order

Approval of Minutes: Tom - 1st, Joe - 2nd - All in favor

Summation of last month's meeting & reflections - (need further discussion)

Elaine D: Human Services update:

They serve 400 households, 2-3 new ones a week turning up, disability community is part of who they serve - and new adults, living with aging parents, unknown to Human Services, and now they both need support (parent & adult)

They need gainful employment

Note - about upcoming pumpkin carving party

ARPA funds available - to Help Municipalities with covid assistance

\$900,000 - full request, \$650,000 - toward affordable housing

Elaine has been presenting for the funds at multiple events - Jim Marpe has been attending, and has been a champion and great boss.

See Elaine's link/share to us

If HS is granted the funds, it will greatly alleviate their need to madly fundraise.

HS - Looking for new staff person through positive directions, not Westport Staff person to build relations we already have - and create direct path to counseling - everyone should have access to help, regardless of finances.

in Sum - \$185,000 was approved

Danielle Dobin Smith - working forward on affordable housing

Housing - is the Number 1 top, most calls for help they receive

(Affordable housing will be a longer discussion w/Carol & Danielle)

For November - working joint commission meeting with Senior Services, and make it a meeting on Affordable housing discussion - and get P & Z present. (Look at Municipal plan for 2022)

Monday NOVEMBER 15th - at 10am - ZOOM MEETING - Michelle Pirelli

Waiting to see who will be at the helm - lots of open spaces often when there is a transition year/different commissions

Discussion - Our meetings will remain ZOOM -

In person for rotary invitations -Dec 21st.

In person Sunrise rotary - Nov 9th

HS - looking for full time social work position & Finance person

Jim Ross: Happy to see & credit Elaine D. with the APRA funds, and glad Town will be address ion ADA compliance issues.

2022 - Town Hall needs ADA compliance attention - in Dept. of Public works budget.

Review - Discussion of October Employment is for Everyone roundtable meeting.

Summation of meeting, discussion around Stigma

Diane J - suggests creating opportunity to meet & greet to rid stigma

Elaine - could use Toquet hall or Zoom but difficult to scale it to meet the needs of all - so varied. (discussion)

10am Elaine - to fill in remainder of minutes here - Stacie had to leave meeting