



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 01-16-2008

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 16, 2008

Members Present: Lin Baker, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Barbara Jones, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Barbara Cutler

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator
 Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate
 Paolo Marinelli, Disability Advocate
 Greg Aimes, Massachusetts Rehabilitation
 Miriam Stein, Diversity Task Force
 Jane Howard, Vision 20/20

Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2007:

Barbara Jones moved approval of the December 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes seconded by Lin Baker.
 SO VOTED

Discussion Regarding Proposed April 2008 Job Fair:

The Disability Commission agreed to co-sponsor a Job fair to be held at the Arlington Town Hall Auditorium in either September 2008 or October 2008. The decision of the Commission is that to effectively co-sponsor the Job Fair it would take at least a few months of planning. The Commission also determined that a small fee of \$50.00 to \$100.00 should be required of employers that participate in this event. The Commission agreed to work with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Department in planning this event.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals:

Jack said that at Park Ave. Ext. and Summer St. neither the locator nor audible signal was working on January 16, 2008. At Forest St. and Summer St. the locator was working but the audible signal was not working. At Brattle St. and Summer St. Jack said that the audible signal was working but the locator was not working.

Barbara Jones said that an article in the Arlington Advocate was printed about the APS being vandalized at Park Ave. Ext. and Summer St. Barbara said that she has contacted the Human Rights Commission regarding the vandalism of the APS at Park Ave. and Summer St. because Barbara said in her opinion this vandalism should be considered a hate crime. Barbara said that she had planned to attend the Human Rights Commission's Meeting scheduled for the evening of January 16th but has decided to wait and instead attend the February Meeting.

Kerrie Fallon said that she has looked into the definition of what is a hate crime and agrees with Barbara Jones that because property damage was deliberately done that would jeopardize the safety of a visually impaired person that a hate crime was committed.

Discussion on Snow & Ice Removal Meeting:

Kerrie said that Jack Jones, Maureen St. Hilaire, Barbara Jones, Paolo Marinelli and herself attended a meeting

held at the Town Hall to discuss snow and ice removal. Jack Jones said that Selectmen Diane Mahon had indicated to himself that she thought the meeting had been valuable and that a future meeting would be planned. Maureen St. Hilaire said that she would draft a letter to be sent to homeowners that do not clear snow and ice from their sidewalks. Kerrie Fallon said that correspondence that the Town has received from residents about clearing the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail of snow and ice has been about 90% positive.

Other Business:

Jack Jones said that the Town issued 82 tickets during calendar year 2007 for unauthorized parking in a handicapped parking space. The total revenue the Town received from these violations during 2007 was \$16,400.

Jack Jones said that Chris Loreti, a member of the Arlington Redevelopment Board, has requested that the Disability Commission decide if they are opposed to the use of bricks in the sidewalk adjacent to the new development where Taylor Rental had been located. Chris Loreti also requested that the Commission send a letter to the Redevelopment Board with their decision about the use of bricks in the walkway at this site.

Kevin O'Brien said that John Bean, Director of Public Works and himself are in the process of drafting a policy for the review of the Board of Selectmen regarding bricks in sidewalks when sidewalks are repaired or constructed.

Paolo Marinelli said that in his opinion in addition to the path of travel bricks should also not be used as a decorative border on walkways.

Community Development Update:

Kevin O'Brien requested that the monthly agenda item of Community Development Update be removed from future agenda's with the exception of the February agenda.

Barbara Jones requested that if this agenda item is removed that Kevin O'Brien inform the Commission of any relevant information regarding development in the Town that would impact accessibility under new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.