

MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2018

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Paul Czech, Darcy Devney, Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen, Liza Molina, Michael Rademacher, Paul Raia, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent:

Others Present: Stephanie Farrell, CART Provider
Jonathan O'Dell, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2018:

Maureen St. Hilaire made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Kerrie Fallon. SO VOTED

Discussion with Jonathan O'Dell regarding Assistive Listening Devices for Individuals with Hearing Loss:

Jonathan O'Dell explained how Infrared Systems work. Jonathan said that these systems have a portable transmitter with microphones that can be carried around by the presenter, and also have multiple receivers for participants to listen in. Jonathan also talked about stationary systems that are designed for stationary use in a single room. These systems have a transmitter that is hooked into the room's sound system. Jonathan said that this allows individuals to use the same microphone for sound amplification in the room and for transmitting to receivers. These systems come with multiple receivers for audience members. For use of the Commission on Disability Jonathan recommended the portable system. Jonathan said that no installation is required and it meets ADA accessibility requirements. This system can also be shared with other offices. Cynthia DeAngelis said that the Commission wants to purchase equipment that will benefit many people. Jonathan O'Dell said that many people like loop systems because they are invisible however the cost of a loop system is very expensive with professional installation for a room the size where the Commission meets would cost \$6,000 to \$8,000. Paul Czech said that there is a segment of the population that has hearing loss that exceeds the capability of these types of systems. Jonathan O'Dell said that a portable system with a single microphone and 4 receivers would cost approximately \$1,200 with a loop system costing about \$1,000 plus the additional cost of installation.

Town Day:

Maureen St. Hilaire and Kerrie Fallon have volunteered to Co-Chair a subcommittee of the Disability Commission for Town Day. Cynthia DeAngelis said that a list exists with everything that needs to be prepared for Town Day. Jack Jones said that Town Day is scheduled for September 15, 2018.

Planned Commission Retreat:

Karen Mathiasen volunteered to Co-Chair a subcommittee of the Disability Commission for the Commission Retreat. A second member of the Commission will also assist Karen.

Commission Projects to be paid for with H/P Revenue:

Michael Rademacher said that Doug Heim Town Council is looking into the possibility of the Commission receiving revenue from H/P fines. Paul Czech said that he has prepared a draft letter to be sent to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager regarding the Commission's desire to receive these funds. Michael suggested waiting until we hear back from Town Council. Paul Raia said that in his opinion the letter should be sent now in order that there is an official record of the Commission's interest to receive H/P revenue. Michael Rademacher made a motion to edit Paul's Czech's letter at the August Meeting. SO VOTED

Adjournment:

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:55 P.M.