



Commission on Disability Meeting
March 17, 2022
Minutes of Meeting

The meeting of the Commission on Disability was held at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 17, 2022, virtually using GoToMeeting. Attending the meeting were Laura Duran, Marcy Rossi, Peter McFarland, Michelle Sweeney and Jim West. Also in attendance was Mike Rosen, Brian Dunn of Norwood Community Media, Karen Hurley, PT for Norwood Public Schools, Nancy Doherty of the Norwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and Sarah Nechamen from the State of Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC).

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

Agenda items for discussion were as follows:

1. The minutes from the March 17, 2022, meeting were reviewed; Ms. Duran made a motion to approve, Mr. West seconded the motion and the motion, through a rollcall, was approved.
2. Ms. Hurley gave the Commission an overview of the upcoming Unified Community Day set to occur on May 15, 2022, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm at the NHS football field area. Ms. Hurley shared that Norwood Public Schools have been recognized as a Unified District by the Special Olympics of Massachusetts. There is currently a unified basketball program, and the plan is to expand into track, strength training and color guard. The COD agreed to support the upcoming Unified Community Day through advertisement on town social media and the COD website.
3. Ms. Nechamen, Outreach & Training Specialist for DPPC gave the Commission a presentation on, "Reporting Abuse & Neglect of Disabled Persons (aged 18-59)." Following the presentation, the Commission decided to add the DPPC website link & abuse & neglect reporting hotline to the town Commission website.
4. The Commission discussed the COD website. Ms. Rossi reported that updates are in process to change the organization of the resources listed on the website.
5. COD Survey Update: Mr. Rosen reported that the survey received approximately 200 responses. He shared the Zen City analysis with the group.
6. Mr. Rosen introduced Mr. McFarland as an official member of the Commission.
7. Mr. West made the suggestion that the Commission look to partner with the Morrill Memorial Library for increased inclusion and disability awareness. Ideas for programming include book clubs, movie presentations and opportunities for social interactions with different age groups.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2022. at 4:00pm.

At 4:46 pm, Ms. Sweeney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. West seconded the motion. The motion, through a rollcall, was approved unanimously.

Michelle Sweeney, Clerk