

Commission on Disabilities, April 25, 2012 <>_

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Dougan, Chairperson; Anne Breen; Megan Sommer; Christine Duane; Bob Tarantino. ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dougan, Scituate resident; Ruth Thompson, Scituate Mariner; Jerry Fierimonte, Council on Aging; John McLaughlin, Scituate resident.

1. Call to Order. Chairperson Jeffrey Dougan called the meeting to order at 7:30pm at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Cudworth Road.

2. Acceptance of Past Minutes. The February and March minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. Old Business

A)MBTA – Greenbush

oThe fine hearing has been rescheduled to May 21. Mr. Dougan said he spoke with the Director and the meeting will be rescheduled again so that Mr. Dougan can be present. He spoke about the 30A process and that he has questions about whether the hearing can legally be reopened. He circulated a memo he wrote in support of his opinion.

B)Transportation Options

oGATRA Update. Mr. Dougan said he is meeting with Ms. Choate tomorrow to see the van and go over the GATRA information as well as fund transfer issues as Ms. Choate said she is having difficulty accessing the maintenance funds for the van. Ms. Breen said the vouchers have to be signed by CoD members prior to funds being released, she will bring these to the next meeting. Mr. Fierimonte said that GATRA is in limbo at the moment as the Selectmen voted in favor of it but the Town Administrator has not signed off on it yet.

C)Marine Center

oUpdate. Mr. Dougan said he intends to check the handrails.

D)Inn @ Scituate Harbor

oThe new pub, accessible route concerns. Mr. Dougan read a memo that he wrote to the Building Inspector Neil Duggan regarding the lack of an accessible route to the area as well as inaccessible entrances to the Welch Company Building (see below). Mr. Duggan said that the Welch Company has not filed for a variance yet but he will not give them a certificate of occupancy until the issue is settled. He also said re the Inn at Scituate Harbor that there was a settlement agreement in the past. There was a discussion about whether the CoD should file a complaint with the Department of Justice on a state level, but that records of what has happened in the past would be necessary. There has not been a formal complaint about accessibility at the Inn from a citizen or member of the public. Mr. Dougan suggested putting this on the May agenda for a vote.

E)Welch Co Building

oInaccessible Entrances

4. New Business

A)Date of 2012 Meetings. CoD members discussed a consistent meeting day for upcoming meetings and it was agreed that Wednesdays are generally good days.

oMay 30

oJune 20

oJuly 18

oAugust off

B)Scituate Recreation Department

oDiscussion of ADA Responsibilities. Members of the Recreation Department asked to reschedule to the May meeting. Mr. Dougan said he will let them know the date of the May meeting. There was a discussion about items for discussion including beach access; accessible swings at the playgrounds; obligations for play equipment; access to the fields and team seating areas, under the new ADA regulations; accessible portable toilets at fields.

C)Other Business.

oMr. Tarantino shared that former CoD chairperson Tom Snow passed away last week.

oMr. Dougan asked Mr. Fierimonte if he knew anything about the Community Building. He said that it is possible that it could be used for a Senior Center temporarily.

oMs. Breen reported that the Commission on Disabilities should have six to nine members. Mr. Dougan said he would send a link to Mr. McLoughlin for the application.

oMs. Breen reported that the HP fund has \$2,460.48. Mr. Dougan asked CoD members to think about how these funds could be used for the benefit of the public.

oRegarding the accessible swing, Ms. Breen said that she contacted Mike Breen of the Highway Department about this and that he thinks he has the straps for it and that he will repair it.

oMs. Breen said that she has two receipts for oil changes for the vans and that once the CoD signs off on them they can be reimbursed to the Council on Aging.

oMr. Dougan said that the MoD is holding a training session and he circulated a flyer about it.

oMr. Tarantino asked about parking and accessibility in the Backyard Burger restaurant. Mr. Dougan said he will put this on the May agenda.

oMr. Tarantino asked about accessibility at Doggie Day Care/Celtic Paws and Mr. Dougan said he will put this on the May agenda.

5. Adjournment. By a Motion by Ms. Sommer and a Second by Ms. Breen and a unanimous vote, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Martin