

Commission on Disabilities

City Of Easthampton

6/7/22

Call to Order: 10:03

Present: Angelique Baker, Chairperson; Eli Damon, Co-chair; Mary Morris; Jeff Bagg, ADA Coordinator/City Planner; Molly Goodwin; Bryce LaPlante; Jeffrey Brown; Robert Wilde

Absent: Stan Diamond

Guests: Sarah Hunter, DDS Regional; Kerry Purcell, DDS Area Director; John Mason, Parks and Rec; and Jennifer Garcia, Guest.

Resignation: Marty Klein has submitted his resignation.

Minutes: Motion made by Molly to accept May's minutes

Seconded by Eli

Minutes accepted

Sarah Hunter and Kerri Purcell

- The Franklin Hampshire area consists of seven area offices.
- Services are provided to all ages
 - 22 & under
 - Receives family supports
 - Can receive a stipend through Pathlight
 - Offers support in finding help and resources within the community
 - All children are entitled to an education through an IPE
 - 22 & over
 - Offers equal opportunity supports for both in home and assisted living (nursing homes, shared living, ICFs)
 - Offers flexible funding for in home services
 - Offers adult companions
 - Eligibility
 - Individuals must have a developmental disability or autism to qualify for services
 - TBI patients can be referred by a hospital/nursing home. Patient must transition to a group living situation
 - Referral is made through schools, doctors, hospitals, etc.
 - Once approved individual will be considered eligible for live
 - Service coordinator is assigned to client (can take 2-4 weeks for contact)

- Needs will be assessed for services
- New Initiative
 - Tech First/Loaner Tech
 - This program will provide technology equipment for a client to “test drive” in order to find the appropriate technologic equipment
 - Self-Direction Program
 - Design and direct own services
 - Direct hire

John Mason

- An ADA playground is in the early stages of being designed for Nonotuck Park
 - Funding will come from a state sponsored grant and city funds
- Playground will connect to the already existing playground and also be connected to the ADA bathrooms.
- Phase II of the plan is to make the pool ADA accessible.
- John is requesting a letter of support from the COD
 - Mary made motion that we provide a letter of support
 - Molly seconded
 - Motion passed

Recruitment

- There are four openings on the Commission
 - Marty’s resignation was negated by Robert’s appointment

Hybrid Meetings:

- Angelique and Stan Diamon met with the mayor to see if Hybrid meetings are feasible for us.
 - We are still required to meet in person
- If the Hybrid meetings get extended beyond June 30th, then we can reassess

New Business:

- **Dementia training**
 - Jeff Brown and Bryce spoke about the Dementia training recently held at Riverside
 - They felt it might be a training the COD would be interested in putting on for City residents, possible in conjunction with the Council on Aging
- **New Hiking Trail**

- Jeff Bagg expressed his desire to offer the COD a tour of the trail prior to opening
- This will be done once the parking lot is paved
- The grand opening is scheduled for the end of July 2022
- **ADA report**
 - Jeff Bagg suggested that we ask the consultant to come to our July meeting to discuss the ADA found in city buildings.
 - Jeff will ask the consultant
- **New School**
 - Angeline will again request that the COD be given a tour of the new building.

Next Meeting Scheduled

- Will either July 5th or 12th.
- Date will be determined by how many Commissioners can attend for voting purposes.

Adjourned: 11:03 am

Respectively Submitted

Mary Louise Morris

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MLM/mtf