

Commission on Disabilities

City Of Easthampton

5/3/2022

Call to Order: 10:07

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

Absent: Stan Diamond

Others Present: Cynthis Tarail, Council on Aging Director, Guest Speaker; Robert Wilde, guest; Joanne Lussier, Guest; and Jennifer Garcia, Guest.

Clerk: Angelique nominated Mary Morris as clerk

Molly Goodwin seconded

Vote passed unanimously

Public Speak:

- Joanne Lussier spoke of the need for seniors to be able to make one call and find all the assistance they need. She recently had surgery and found it very frustrating trying to figure out how to go about getting the help she needed.
- Robert Wilde stated that he would be applying for one of the vacant positions.
- Jennifer Garcia expressed her desire to return to work. But needs a 1:1 worker.

Cynthia Tarail:

- Cynthia became director of the Enrichment Center (formerly known as the Senior Center) in October 2021
- The Center offers services for individuals 55 and over. Services include:
 - Low-cost Transportation:
 - Two wheelchair accessible vehicles
 - One non-ADA accessible vehicle
 - Fitness:
 - Movement
 - General Fitness
 - Socialization
 - Outreach:
 - Help with applications (ex: fuel assistance)
 - Explore economic needs
 - Increased calls for help with housing, age discrimination, and financial help.
 - They do not offer financial counseling.
 - Loan Equipment:

- Used equipment
 - No time limits
 - Small items: wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers, canes (there is a need for additional wheelchairs, especially for larger individuals).
 - Franklin County Sheriff Department will loan out hospital beds.
- Tax Preparation:
 - AARP offers this service to everyone, regardless of age, at the Enrichment Center.
- Volunteers at the Senior Center:
 - Using their own cars, they can bring seniors to doctor appointments.
 - Serve as receptionist at the Center
 - Lead activities
 - Hand out meals
 - Visit housebound seniors
- Easthampton Neighbors
 - Currently not in a relationship with the ECOA.
 - It is hopeful that eventually a relationship can be developed.

COD Open positions:

- There are currently four openings, and one person applying for one of the positions.

Hybrid Meetings:

- Angelique and Stan Diamon will be meeting with the mayor to see if Hybrid meetings are feasible for us.

PSA:

- Hope to have the final draft completed by this July

Survey:

- Still trying to determine how to make it into a presentable study,

New Business:

- Cross walks
 - Are only painted once a year.
 - Suggestion was made that individuals notify DPW of their concern.
- Promoting the ECOD:
 - Angelique recently created a Facebook page for the Commission:
 - Commission on Disabilities Easthampton 01027
 - Have tables at events manned by members with information on resources
- New Hiking Trail:
 - Jeff Bagg updated us on the new hiking trail off East Street
 - It is not ADA compliant but was designed to meet the National Parks Service requirements.

- Interpretive signs will be placed along the trail.
- Jeff hopes the Commission will be able to make a site visit soon.

Next Meeting Scheduled

- June 7th at 10 am

Adjourned: 11:18am

Respectively Submitted

Mary Louise Morris

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MLM/mtf