

Commission on Disabilities

City of Easthampton

10/ 4/2022

Call to order 10:04 am

Present: Angelique Baker, Chair; Eli Damon, Co-chair; Mary Morris, Robert Wilde, Molly Goodwin; Jeff Brown; and Jeff Bagg, City ADA Liaison.

Sick: Bryce LaPlante

Guests: Emily Grace Harrison, Massachusetts Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH); Jenny Garcia; Bobby, and Rocky.

Minutes approval: postponed to next meeting

MCDHH presentation:

MCDHH serves everyone who is deaf and hard of hearing

Ages birth to elders

1 out of 5 people suffer from mild to severe hearing loss

14 million people meet the 1 out of ratio

60% of those with hearing loss are over the age of 65

Services

MCDHH offers

Not everyone relies on ASL (American Sign Language)

CAP (Communication Access)

CART (office meetings)

Certified Interpreters

After-Hours Emergency services: Certified Interpreters or CART

Birth to age 22

Communication is the main focus

Needs change as the child ages

MCDHH provides what is needed

#### Adult Services

An adult can apply at any time.

Does not need to be referred by a doctor

MCDHH has a contract with Viability Deaf and Independent Living

Case managers

Make sure client has what is needed

Assessment need Disorder

Works with Board of Health

Offers recovery coaches support at AA/NARC/Overeaters Anonymous and can

Offer support for Zoom meetings.

Anyone can call request and interpreter via the MCDHH website at least two weeks in advance

#### Update on ADA findings at new school

Jeff Bagg did not have any updates at this time

He suggested we contact the school committee with any questions

#### Recruitment

We still have three openings on the Board

Anyone interested should fill out the form on the City website and submit it to the mayor

#### New School Open House

Saturday October 22,2022

#### Survey Sub Committee

On hold until next meeting

#### ADA Nonotuck Pool Area

The City received a grant of \$400,000 to make ADA updates/installations for the pool

It will cost upwards of 1.2 million dollars to make the needed repairs/updates/and installations  
at the pool itself

The recent storm destroyed the small playground

The City will apply for another grant to help with the above costs

#### Accessible Trail Ribbon Cutting

The East Street Trail is open to the public

It was designed to meet Forestry standards, not ADA standards

It does support power mobility

Seven parking spaces- 2 are accessible

There are five resting spots along the trail for people to rest as needed

Requests have been made to install portable toilets

The responsibility for the trail will be transitioning to the Parks and Recreation Dept

One thought is to create a staff made up of Tax Work off Credit individuals to upkeep the  
trail on a weekly basis

#### PSA Snow video

Eli, Jeff and Angelique were involved in the making of this video

Everyone who has seen it has been pleased with it

Some suggestions:

- Add the City log and closed captioning

- Adding 2022/2023 winter footage

- Include senior citizens trying to navigate the city

#### Public Speak

Why is the mayor the one to choose who sits on the board.

- Shouldn't Board members have a say

Are Emergency personnel trained and held accountable for how they handle situations involving

Disabled person

Next Meeting Date: 11/1/2022

Meeting Adjourned: 11:08nam

Respectfully submitted

*Mary Louise Morris*

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Clerk