



MILFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

52 Main Street, Milford, Massachusetts 01757

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Minutes from the Meeting of September 25, 2013

On Thursday, September 25, 2013, a meeting of the Milford Commission on Disability (MCOD) was held at Milford Town Hall. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by M. Nicholson, Chairperson.

Members Present: Mike Nicholson, Demetra Edwards, Harold Rhodes, Margaret Myatt, and Tom Andruskevich.

Members Unable to Attend: Charles Hince, Dino DeBartolomeis, and Fran O'Neill.

Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of August 22, 2013, were accepted unanimously as written on a motion by M. Myatt; seconded by D. Edwards.

Treasurer's Report: The following balances were reported: GL Account \$1,132.40; Revolving Account \$5,335.14; and Gift Account \$9,000.00. A motion to allow the expenditure of up to \$3,500 from the MCOD Revolving Account for the purchase of four benches was made by M. Myatt and seconded by D. Edwards and passed unanimously. The benches will be shipped to the Highway Department. Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted on a motion by D. Edwards, seconded by T. Andruskevich. Expenditures planned include one Decibel Meter and Four Park Benches.

Correspondence: M. Nicholson reported correspondence from the Board of Selectman indicating that a Special Town Meeting will be held on October 21, 2013. MCOD has no warrant articles.

Review of Current Projects:

(a) Accessibility-Businesses:

1) **Accessible Transportation:** D. Edwards will provide information for the MCOD web site about how persons with disabilities within Milford can utilize the Senior Center bus. She also will investigate if / how persons with disabilities within Milford can access MWRTA's "Dial-A-Ride" service.

2) **Milford Regional ICU/ED Expansion:** M. Nicholson reported that he will follow-up the continuing correspondence with a letter to the architect indicating MCOD's concern for (a) total HP parking spots in the underground garage; (b) the determination of whether the 30% trigger for ADA compliance for the existing facility is required; and, (c) the status of the HP spots currently near the existing ED. M. Nicholson reported that the Mass Office on Disability has provided an extensive review of, and recommendations for, the expansion. A letter has been sent to the Town Planner and architect that includes the recommendations from MOD as well as additional recommendations from MCOD. M. Nicholson to follow-up.

3) **Shadowbrook.** After review by the Building Commission, it has been determined that since the facility pre-dates regulations, MCOD and the Building Commission cannot offer any assistance. M. Nicholson to follow-up with the party.

4) **Host Community Agreement with Foxwoods:** M. Nicholson reported that the Host Community Agreement with Foxwoods MA now states that Foxwoods MA will:

a) *"use its best efforts to achieve labor participation goals ... with persons with disabilities;"*

b) *"implement a workforce development plan that incorporates an affirmative action program of equal opportunity by which Foxwoods MA guarantees to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees qualified for licensure in all employment categories, including persons with disabilities".*

M. Nicholson also reported that Foxwoods MA has also agreed in writing to allow MCOD to perform a comprehensive final review of the facility before opening.

(b) Site and Building Plan Reviews:

- 1) Cornerstone Assisted Living. With the expert assistance of the Mass Office on Disability, a comprehensive onsite review of the facility will be conducted October 29, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. A planning meeting is scheduled at 10:00 am at a nearby meeting room.
- 2) Blaire House. M. Nicholson reported that he will request building plans for review.
- 3) Countryside Health Care. M. Nicholson is working with B. Chiler to obtain for review a copy of building plans for the dementia unit addition.
- 3) 119 East Main Street. The Building Commissioner informed M. Nicholson that the "change of use" regulation will apply to this facility. M. Nicholson will contact the Building Commissioner to discuss further.

(c) Town Accessibility:

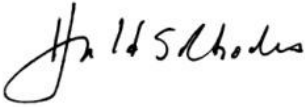
- 1) Louisa Lake: M. Nicholson reported that the Town Engineer is trying to confirm a start date with all contractors. M. Nicholson reported that he will discuss the status of the Louisa Lake platform project with D. DeBartolomeis.
- 2) Upper Charles Trail: H. Rhodes is doing his best to encourage the engineering firm of Guerriere and Halnon to provide a site plan and staking of property lines for the proposed accessible family rest area on the trail near CVS.
- 3) CART Service: M. Nicholson will contact Foxwoods to discuss CART Service for the Special Town Meeting on December 9th.
- 4) Audio Loop Service: M. Myatt is continuing to investigate the installation of an audio loop at one or more "informational areas" at locations within Milford. She indicated that the Senior Center may be the best informational location for the first audio loop. H. Rhodes indicated the Rhodes family will provide the funds for an audio loop at the Senior Center, as a gift from MCOD.
- 5) Sidewalk Obstructions: D. Edwards and M. Nicholson are working to resolve various concerns on Main Street affecting persons with sight disabilities.
- 6) Town By-laws: M. Nicholson reported that, after discussion with D. DeBartolomeis, additional analysis will be needed before proposing amendment of Town By-Law Article 22 to increase the current \$125 HP space parking violation fine to \$175 with \$50 of each fine to the MCOD GL account to finance town accessibility improvements. H. Rhodes will provide additional background information at the next MCOD meeting.

- (d) Disability Awareness: M. Myatt to give a ~30 minute presentation on "Hearing Assistive Technology" during the September MCOD meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Room 14, Milford Town Hall.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. S. Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harold S. Rhodes
Secretary

Ref: Project Worksheet

CC: Board of Selectmen
Department of Inspections