



**CHELMSFORD COMMISSION
ON
DISABILITIES**



**CHELMSFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
C.C.O.D.**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 FINAL MEETING MINUTES
DATE ISSUED: OCTOBER 10, 2019**

**The Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on
Tuesday September 24, 2019, at 7 PM
At the Town Offices**

Members Present: Anne Smith, Jad Duggan, Joe O'Neill, Paul Smith.

Members Absent: Len Olenchak, Terry Doherty.

The Meeting was presided by Anne Smith, Chairperson.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Allan Hodges, a resident of Chelmsford, attended the meeting. He was invited to attend the meeting by Anne and Paul Smith in order to discuss possible solutions to the ongoing problem with administrative rights to the CCOD Facebook page. He has volunteered to look into how to contact Facebook in order to regain administrative rights to the page, which have been lost at some point in the last few years during the transitions that occurred from one or more administrators to the next. Regaining

administrative rights to the page will allow the Commission to restart it and place new content on the Facebook page.

Jad Duggan mentioned that he knows someone who might be interested in joining the CCOD.

SECRETARY'S REPORT/ Paul Smith

Paul Smith presented the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Joe O'Neill made a motion to approve the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Jad Duggan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Outgoing Treasurer Francis Gilroy provided the Treasurer's Report for June to September, 2019. No new income was received during the months of June to September. Expenses were incurred for accessible signage.

Paul Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for June to September, 2019. Joe O'Neill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANSWERING MACHINE/ Anne Smith

Several calls were received on the answering machine over the summer, and were passed along to the ADA Coordinator, Len Olenchak, for follow up.

Calls were received regarding an ongoing problem with the accessibility of the bathroom in a beauty salon. Len Olenchak has previously responded to this caller's complaints, and has inspected the site with the Building Inspector. This is an ongoing issue, and the owner has promised to take action to correct the problem.

One call was received from a reporter at the Lowell Sun requesting information about the walkway at the rear of the Senior Center. Len Olenchak will respond to this call at his earliest convenience.

SOCIAL MEDIA/ Paul Smith

Allan Hodges discussed possible ways to regain the administrative rights to the CCOD Facebook Page.

Terry Doherty, who was not able to attend the meeting due to health issues, has also done some research into the issue over the summer, and between the two of them we may be able to make some progress on the issue prior to our next meeting.

Access Issues/ Len Olenchak

Len Olenchak was absent from the meeting due to health issues and did not make a report.

OLD BUSINESS

Large Print Menus/ All

Jad Duggan and his wife had a second discussion with the manager of Bertucci's Restaurant regarding the large print menus and they may soon start to offer them to their customers.

Jad also discussed the large print menus for a second time with the manager at Rufina's, who also said that they were very interested in the idea.

The Lowell Sun published an article regarding the CCOD's large print menus initiative on Sunday, July 28, which was widely read around town.

The initiative has also been mentioned several times by Selectman Ken Lefebvre at the Board of Selectmen's meetings, and several copies of the information package that the CCOD prepared about the initiative were provided to a member of the Chelmsford Business Association for discussion at one of their upcoming meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Massachusetts Office on Disability Fifth Annual Disability Summit

The Massachusetts Office on Disability will be holding its Fifth Annual Disability Summit, “Improving Access in our Communities”, on September 27, 2019, from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, located at 415 Summer Street in Boston.

Information and reservations can be obtained at www.mass.gov/mod/summit19

Len Olenchak was invited by the MOD to make a presentation to the Summit regarding “Creative Uses of MGL C.40 S.22G Funds by Local Commissions on Disabilities”. Since Len will be unable to attend due to health issues, Anne and Paul Smith will make a short presentation in his place.

Chelmsford Lions Club Fall Fest 2019

The Chelmsford Lions Club will present its annual Fall Fest on the Chelmsford Town Common on Saturday, September 28th, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

CCOD has reserved a booth in order to present information to the public regarding our activities. All CCOD members are asked to attend.

LIAISON REPORT/ Jad Duggan

From: **John A Duggan** <jaduggan1015@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 10, 2019 at 2:59 PM

Subject: Chelmsford Commission on Disabilities, meeting September 24, 2019.

To: George Dixon <gdixon10@hotmail.com>

Our efforts to encourage local eateries to provide large print menus has been gaining some success. We are asking all citizens (visually impaired and otherwise) to inquire about the availability of such menus when eating out, hoping to make this a desirable trend for all restaurants. Mass Office on Disabilities is watching. We may be setting the standard.

The CCOD continues to look for members. Prospective members need to be disabled, or be a caregiver for a disabled resident, or have a family member who is disabled. Attendance to meetings (monthly, 10 per year) is very important. Interested parties may attend our meeting (open to the public) at the town offices 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM.

Age Friendly Chelmsford is preceding and supports our Large Print Menu goals.

MOD held a Summit BCEC in Boston September 27th.

Fall Fest, organized by Chelmsford Lions, happened on Saturday, September 28. CCOD provided information about disabilities, our table set up by Anne and Paul Smith.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jad Duggan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the CCOD is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul V. Smith, Secretary