CHELMSFORD COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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C.C.O.D.

OCTOBER 15, 2019 FINAL MEETING MINUTES
DATE ISSUED: OCTOBER 29, 2019

The Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday October 15, 2019, at 7 PM At the Town Offices


Members Absent:  None.

The Meeting was presided by Anne Smith, Chairperson.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Allan Hodges, a resident of Chelmsford, attended the meeting at the invitation of the Commission members in order to continue working with us on the problem of access to administrative rights to the CCOD Facebook page. Regaining administrative rights to the page will allow the Commission to restart it and to begin placing new content on the Facebook page. Significant progress was made through working with the members and applying Mr. Hodges’s knowledge of the inner workings of Facebook,
and we should be able to get back in and start entering new content to the page in the near future.

The Commission voted to allow Mr. Hodges to make certain entries on the Facebook page which should prevent future access issues of the kind we recently experienced from happening again, including giving access to several different persons at once.

Terry Doherty attended the meeting during the Public Input Session, and discussed an issue that is affecting himself and other residents of his neighborhood, including one neighbor with limited vision issues, related to the threatening behavior of some dogs in the neighborhood. He has been directly affected himself because the issue is causing problems with his service dog’s ability to do its job. The issue was referred to the ADA Coordinator, and may fall within the authority of the Health Department.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT/ Paul Smith**

Paul Smith presented the September 24, 2019 meeting minutes. Joe O’Neill made a motion to approve the September 24, 2019 meeting minutes. Jad Duggan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Acting Treasurer Len Olenchak was unable to obtain updated information from the Town Accounting Department due to recent changes in personnel there, as well as his personal health issues. He will provide an updated report at the next meeting.

**ANSWERING MACHINE/ Anne Smith**

One call was received from a local resident who was recently denied service at a local restaurant because she was accompanied by her service dog. This issue has been discussed with her before and is being pursued by the ADA Coordinator.
SOCIAL MEDIA/ Paul Smith

Progress is being made regarding the access to the CCOD Facebook Page, as discussed above under Public Input Session.

Terry Doherty has also done some further research into the issue since our last meeting, which may be useful as well if we continue to experience problems.

Access Issues/ Len Olenchak

Len Olenchak has been pursuing several minor access issues since the last meeting, including the issue at the local restaurant that was discussed above under Telephone Messages.

He has also been following up with the owners of a beauty salon where there have been complaints regarding lack of disabled access to the restrooms.

OLD BUSINESS

Large Print Menus/ All

Jad Duggan and his wife have had additional discussions regarding the large print menus with the owners/ managers of several local restaurants, including Bertucci’s, Rufina’s and Amici Trattoria.

Anne and Paul Smith will follow up with a member of the Chelmsford Business Association who requested several copies of the information package for discussion at one of their recent or upcoming meetings.

All members will continue to do their best to promote the Large Print Menus Initiative with the owners/ managers of local restaurants, and to get as many local residents interested as possible.
Massachusetts Office on Disability
Fifth Annual Disability Summit

The Massachusetts Office on Disability held 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.

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 was unable to attend due to health issues, Anne and Paul Smith made a short presentation in his place, which included the following items:

- Scholarships for Graduating Seniors with Disabilities from Chelmsford High School and Nashoba Technical High School.
- Funding for Local Infrastructure Improvements.
- Donations to Project Interface and Promise of Hope.
- Assisting in the Restoration of the Paul Center.
- Supporting Chelmsford Telemedia in Funding of Voiceovers.
- Large Print Menus Initiative (printing of information packages).

Chelmsford Lions Club
Fall Fest 2019

The Chelmsford Lions Club presented its annual Fall Fest on the Chelmsford Town Common on Saturday, September 28th, from 10 AM to 3 PM. CCOD members Jad Duggan and Anne and Paul Smith set up and manned a booth and presented information to the public regarding CCOD’s mission and activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Beyond 2020:
A Conference for the Blind and Low Vision Community
CCOD received an invitation to this conference, which will deal with innovative and emerging programs, services and assistive technologies that are empowering the blind and low vision community. The event will be held at the Cambridge Innovative Center, 245 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Cambridge, Mass 02142 on Thursday, October 17th, from 8:30 AM to 7 PM.

Registration is free online at www.beyond2020.io

**LIAISON REPORT/ Jad Duggan**

From: **John A Duggan** <jaduggan1015@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 9:54 PM
Subject: Chelmsford Commission On Disabilities October Meeting
To: George Dixon <gdixon10@hotmail.com>

CCOD October meeting was held at the Town Offices on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Chairwoman Anne Smith presiding.

Anne and Paul Smith attended the 5th Annual Disabilities Summit in Boston @ BCEC on September 27th and presented innovative uses of our funds for the betterment of local disabled citizens

Chelmsford Lions Club presented an annual Fall Fest at the town common on Saturday, September 28th. Jad Duggan, Anne and Paul Smith manned a table with information about disabilities and CCOD.

Allan Hodges, a local resident, is helping us get our Facebook page going again.
Large Print menus in local restaurants continue to be a significant focus for us. All members have large print "Packages" which provide ideas for the program. We are encouraging all residents to ask restaurants if they have the large print versions. This is strictly a voluntary compliance but we hope owners and managers will see the benefit with increased patrons. Hopefully it will be "the thing to do".

We continue to be on the lookout for potential Commission members. Interested residents should come to our meeting (third Tuesday 7:00 PM at Town Offices)

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 19.

Respectfully Submitted
John A. Duggan, Liaison

**ADJOURNMENT**

Paul Smith 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, November 19, 2019, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul V. Smith, Secretary