



**CHELMSFORD COMMISSION  
ON  
DISABILITIES**



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

**JANUARY 21, 2020 FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
DATE ISSUED: FEBRUARY 2, 2020**

**The Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on  
Tuesday January 21, 2020, at 7 PM  
At the Town Offices**

**Members Present:** Anne Smith, Len Olenchak, Jad Duggan and Paul Smith.

**Members Absent:** Joe O'Neill and Terry Doherty.

**The Meeting was presided by Anne Smith, Chairperson.**

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

No members of the general public attended the meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT/ Paul Smith**

Paul Smith presented the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes. The CCOD did not meet in December, 2019 due to inclement weather on December 17, the night the meeting was scheduled. Jad Duggan made a motion to approve the November 19,

2019 meeting minutes. Len Olenchak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Len Olenchak presented the Treasurer's Report for January, 2020. Paul Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January, 2020. Jad Duggan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ANSWERING MACHINE/ Anne Smith**

Anne Smith reported that no new calls have been received on the answering machine since the last CCOD meeting.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA/ Paul Smith**

The CCOD Facebook Page has been successfully reactivated and we are looking for new content and for ways to reengage Town residents who were following it in the past.

On December 6, 2019, the CCOD consulted Mr. Paul Haverty, the Town's Legal Counsel, by email regarding the proposed posting of information on the CCOD Facebook page about a program being offered by Consumer Cellular and Lyft, which allows persons who do not have or do not use smart phones to access the Lyft Ride Service using ordinary land lines or flip phones.

Mr. Haverty responded that there are no legal or ethical issues regarding the posting of information like this on the Facebook page of a Town entity, so long as we advise that it is being posted for informational purposes only, and that the Commission has no connection with these organizations and is not endorsing their services.

The information was posted on the CCOD Facebook page, following the guidelines provided by Mr. Haverty.

## **ACCESS ISSUES/ Len Olenchak**

Len Olenchak has recently received one additional complaint, from two blind persons who were refused service at a local restaurant because they were accompanied by a service animal. Similar issues have been raised previously regarding this same restaurant. He is continuing to follow up with the restaurant owners, the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities, and the persons who have complained about refusal of service at this establishment to persons who are accompanied by service animals.

He has also been following up with the owners of a beauty salon where there have been complaints regarding lack of adequate disabled access to the restrooms. Mr. Olenchak has provided information about access requirements to the owners, and has been following up with them to see if they have taken the necessary actions.

There was some discussion regarding the lack of an effective enforcement mechanism, and possible punitive mechanisms, when facility owners refuse to comply with regulations regarding handicapped access. Such measures may be discussed further in the future.

## **Parking/ Access Issues at Roberts Field and other Town Parks**

Len Olenchak discussed several access issues at Roberts Field and other Town parks which were raised in a recent newspaper article, including lack of adequate handicapped parking, which he is already looking into. Len understands that the Town will be putting up some additional handicapped parking signs at several parks in the near future.

There is also a sign at Roberts Field that states that safety helmets are banned from the park, which should be removed.

Len plans to meet with the Town Manager, Paul Cohen, for further discussions regarding these issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Large Print Menus/ All**

All CCOD 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. This may include sending out follow up letters to the restaurants who were contacted previously, revisiting them, etc. We will also continue to post information about the Large Print Menus Initiative on our Facebook page.

### **Chelmsford Signs Deaf Culture Presentation – November 20, 2019**

Anne and Paul Smith attended a Deaf Culture Presentation by Chelmsford Signs, a local group for people who are interested in learning about American Sign Language and Deaf Culture, on Wednesday, November 20, at the Chelmsford Police Station. The instructor was Carol Zurek, who is a teacher of the Deaf and is also deaf herself. The presentation was given in sign language, with an interpreter for the hearing.

The founder of Chelmsford Signs is Ali Barnes, and information about the group can be found online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/644893202538171/>.

CCOD will continue to follow Chelmsford Signs, provide updates to the members and post information on the CCOD Facebook page.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Scholarships for 2020**

The CCOD voted to continue to provide scholarships to graduating seniors with disabilities from Chelmsford High School and Nashoba Tech. CCOD will provide a total of four scholarships for 2020, with two each to graduating students with disabilities from each school.

The next step is to inform the guidance counselors at each school and to provide them with the updated application forms.

### **Volunteer Fair – March 7<sup>th</sup>**

The 2020 Chelmsford Volunteer Fair will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 1:30 to 4 PM, at the Senior Center, located at 75 Groton Road. CCOD has registered for this year's Fair and all members are requested to attend and represent CCOD to the Town.

### **CCOD Members Criteria**

Jad Duggan requested clarification of the CCOD membership criteria, in particular whether or not persons who are not disabled can serve as members on the Commission. According to the CCOD by – laws, a majority of the members of the CCOD must be disabled, but non – disabled persons may also serve as members on the Commission. Jad indicated that this information will be useful in our ongoing attempts to recruit new members in 2020.

### **LIAISON REPORT/ Jad Duggan**

From: **John A Duggan** <[jaduggan1015@gmail.com](mailto:jaduggan1015@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 10:57 AM

Subject: Chelmsford Commission on Disabilities, meeting January 21, 2020.

To: [ken@cpfinancialadvisors.com](mailto:ken@cpfinancialadvisors.com) <[ken@cpfinancialadvisors.com](mailto:ken@cpfinancialadvisors.com)>

Our December meeting was cancelled due to weather

Our January meeting was presided by Chair, Anne Smith at Town Offices 7:00 PM, January 21, 2020.

Large Print Menus continue to be on everyone's mind. All members, in fact all citizens and local patrons need to inquire if they are available. Hopefully restaurants will get the idea that this is an inexpensive

improvement for eateries and patrons alike.

A volunteer fair will be held at the Senior Center Saturday March 7, 1:30 to 4:00. CCOD will participate.

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, February 18, 2020, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul V. Smith, Secretary