

Commission on Disability
Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2021 6:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87380340084?pwd=cUdtOUlzcDFqaFF1ZUdpOWRXcGvdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 8034 0084

Passcode: 123123

1. CALL TO ORDER: Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski, started the meeting at 6:24 pm. as the Zoom meeting alternate host to those members present; Mr. Flach, Mr. Cobb, Ms. Bachetti, Mr. Hollenbeck. Ms. Flynn was absent. Mr. Edwin May, Great Barrington building inspector, was also present and identified as the advisor to the Commission on Disabilities (COD) from the town. Mr. Flach then called the meeting to order
2. Mr. Flach then welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Jeffrey Dougan of the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) who appeared before the commission to present an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the COD as outlined in MGL Cpt. 40 Sec. 8J (attached). Mr. Dougan also gave the COD an outline (attached) of the various resources available to the COD from the state to include, but not limited to, training opportunities, grant funds, handicap parking fine allocation, the acceptance of “gifts” for COD use, and tax issues. Mr. Dougan expressed the importance of good communication and working relations between the COD and other local town agencies and the MOD.
3. At the conclusion of Mr. Dougan’s presentation there was brief discuss of the material presented and a question-and-answer period. Mr. Dougan was thanked for his contribution to the meeting and the COD is looking forward to working with him.
4. Mr. May then brought a current case before the town and Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) for a variance (attached) involving handicap seating requested by the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to the attention of the COD. Mr. May said this case would normally require submission to the COD, but as this is a new commission this was not done. Mr. May proposed the case would be an opportunity for the COD to get involved in as a way of establishing procedures and practices involved in advising on handicap issues.
5. A discussion of open issues brought up during the first meeting were talked about. Ms. Bachetti had reached out to other CODs in neighboring towns for guidance on operations. She was able to contact the Chair of the Sheffield COD who offered some constructive advice. Mr. Flach had communicated with the Building Department and Department of Public Works (DPW) to make the departments aware the COD was operational and was looking forward to working with the town on issues affecting the disabled.

6. Plans for the COD going forward are to participate in upcoming training events offered by the MOD and work closely with Mr. May on the Mahaiwe variance request and all upcoming issues affecting the disabled in the community.

7. Mr. Flach called for a vote to approve the minutes for the March 10th, 2021 meeting by a Roll Call Vote; Mr. Flach, aye; Mr. Cobb, aye; Ms. Bachetti, aye; Mr. Hollenbeck, aye; minutes were unanimously approved by the members present.

10. There were no public present for the Citizen Speak Time.

11 The meeting was adjourned

Attachments:



MGL Ch. 40, Sec.
8J.docx



MOD material.docx



Mahaiwe Theater
AAB Variance Applicat

/s/ Richard Flach, Chairperson