

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
August 15, 2022**

Present:

Erica Rodman (Chairperson); David Wantuck ("David", Vice Chairperson); Deborah Bucki (Councilmember)

Members: Susan Zummo; Tom Roetzer; Luci Miranda; Barbara Robertson

Interpreter: Barbara (Deaf Access Services)

ADA Coordinators: Mark Berke

Excused: Quinn Bushen; Patrice Freeman; Dave Whalen; Kathryn Barillari

The meeting was called to order at 18:36.

I. Minutes

- a. June minutes approved as read
 - i. Rachel – first
 - ii. David – second
- b. Passage of RESOLUTION 2022-713
 - i. Motion to Town Board by Debbie
 - ii. Luci Miranda, Dave Whalen, Barbara Robertson now voting members

II. Old Business

- a. Bike Path Phones: David
 - i. Erica and David attended the Town Board Meeting on Monday, June 27th
 - ii. Spoke during Public Expression
 - iii. Prepared a statement that included statistics and additional information from Officer Barillari of the Amherst Police Station
 - iv. Talked about concerns regarding the bike path
 - 1. Accessibility
 - 2. Safety
 - v. Town will be considering the presentation during 2023 budget approval
- b. Sensory Awareness Project
 - i. Rachel: Spoke with neighbor who is an OT regarding information for the project
 - 1. OT stressed that sensory processing is a very individualized experience
 - ii. Erica: suggest going in different direction with the project
 - 1. Providing general information and then resources
 - 2. Providing general information along with an experience piece (written by Sue)
 - iii. Luci: suggested sticking to posting facts/resources
 - 1. Link to Jan Tona – director of Occupational Therapy at UB

- iv. Barbara: important to include a disclaimer and comment that sensory processing concerns apply to all abilities (not just autism)
- v. Rachel: suggested reminding public to contact 211 for linkage to services
- vi. Erica: Motion to shift direction of the project to an experience piece written by Sue with general information related to sensory processing concerns and suggestion to contact your health care professional or 211 for resources
 - 1. Barbara – second
 - 2. All in favor
- c. Multimedia Accessibility Project
 - i. Erica: shared with the Town Board as a Communication and posted on the Town website
 - 1. Working next on preparing a press release for media exposure
- d. Fair Housing Training follow-up
 - i. Erica: the Committee co-sponsored a training on Assistance Animal awareness and Fair Housing
 - 1. DRNY attorneys gave the presentation
 - 2. Debbie requested the Committee be involved and Laurie Stillwell made the request of DRNY
 - 3. Debbie gave a wonderful introduction to the Committee and Erica spoke briefly about the Committee's role in the community
 - 4. Around 70 participants
 - 5. Clarification that the Fair Housing Act extends to individuals affiliated with the tenant too
 - 6. If a visitor has an assistance animal, they are also protected
 - ii. Barbara: suggested looking into repeating the training in the future

III. New Business

- a. Health Fair: Erica
 - i. Thank you to Luci for helping to coordinate the table last minute and for helping with set up
 - ii. Debbie attended and helped to field questions/greet attendees
 - iii. Erica put together a true/false game on service dog awareness and passed out prizes
 - iv. Barbara attended as well to assist with clean up
 - v. Photo and caption up on the Town website
 - vi. A local resident requested help regarding an HOA issue and accessible parking
 - 1. Erica connected the resident with Laurie Stillwell
 - 2. The table across from the Committee's was run by members of the UB History of Medicine
 - a. Inquired about the collections from the Museum on DisAbility
 - b. Connected with Dave Whalen
 - 3. David: believes the exhibit was moved to NYC

- vii. Luci: need to update flyers for next year; Erica should email coordinator to ensure we are on the schedule for next year too
- b. Inclusive Playground: Erica
 - i. Amherst Central Park
 - 1. Reached out to Mary-Diana Pouli (Youth and Recreation)
 - 2. Debbie: past meetings with Dover Kohl to discuss area at N. Forest, Sheridan to Maple
 - a. Carl Heastie came in for a press conference last Monday at 1pm
 - b. \$1M check was presented; McMahon was there; Town Board members there (including Debbie)
 - c. Debbie met with Dan Rizzo from Facilities and Anne Dafchik (new architect)
 - d. Plan is evolving; General plan discussed; Inclusive playground is just part of the plan
 - e. Debbie stressed to them that the Committee should be involved; Suggested some improvements from a disability standpoint; Brought up various points (ie., accessible parking)
 - 3. Rachel: are sponsors being requested?
 - a. Debbie: no discussion yet; Town still needs to acquire the land
 - 4. Tom: are there any renderings?
 - a. Debbie: confidential at this time due to legal process; Evolving process
 - 5. Luci: Barbara and I are going through the certification process for assessing spaces for accessibility (may come in handy)
 - a. Enclosures should be considered
 - i. Debbie: confirmed enclosures were suggested
- c. Sidewalks: David
 - i. Willowridge and Kaymar
 - 1. Concerned about accessibility of this sidewalk; It starts out wide and narrows going towards the street; Would be difficult for a wheelchair to maneuver
 - a. Mark: sidewalk goes through engineering department; Will check to see if it was planned and constructed to plan
 - i. number of requirements the ramp must meet; Perhaps it was done without Town's knowledge; Will follow up
 - 2. Luci: is there still a sidewalk committee?
 - a. Mark: don't believe there still is one that meets regularly
 - b. Luci: sidewalks to National Grid area end abruptly into the grass (W. Klein, Sundown Trail); We can't make NG put in a sidewalk, but there is no level ground there
 - i. Mark: if there is a sidewalk committee still in place, Chris Schregel would be the point person

- c. Erica: Allenhurst Project construction vehicles consistently blocking sidewalks
 - i. Mark: will follow up with the project; In general, police should be contacted
 - d. Luci: uneven sidewalks
 - i. Mark: ¾" inch are considered a tripping hazard
 - ii. Goes through Building Department
 - iii. \$500-600 per block to repair rooted tree issues
 - iv. Homeowners are responsible for some of the expense
 - v. Thousands of miles of sidewalk in the Town
 - vi. Code Enforcement Officers working to gain compliance
 - vii. Town can't just go and fix them; Contractors want to do multiple at a time (not sporadic); Lowers price for homeowners
 - d. Social Media: Erica
 - i. Consider for next meeting would kind of social media presence we might want to have moving into the new year; Website changes, etc
 - ii. Debbie: Will reach out to David Willer from IT regarding rules

IV. Next Meeting

- a. Monday, September 12th

V. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned 19:52
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. Erica – first
 - 2. Luci – second