

**TOWN OF AMHERST
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES
June 3, 2024**

Member Name	Present/ Excused	Member Name	Present/ Excused
Erica Rodman, Chair	Present	Barbara Robertson, Member	Excused
David Wantuck, Vice Chair	Present	Susan Zummo, Member	Present
Rachel Martin, Secretary	Present	Dave Whalen, Member	Present
Luci Miranda, Member	Excused	Tom Roetzer, Member	Present
Chong Cheng, Member	Present	Jamie Mobberly, Member	Present

Other Participant Name	Present/ Excused	Address if applicable
Town of Amherst Liaison – Angela Marinucci	Present	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Bob McCarthy	Excused	N/A
ADA Coordinator – Mark Berke	Present	N/A
Interpreter – Barbara	Present	N/A
Interpreter – Kayleigh	Present	N/A
Secretary to the Council Members – Martha Taggart	Present	

Guests:

Bill Prenevau – Building Department, Town of Amherst

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

I. Minutes

- a. May minutes reviewed.
- b. May minutes approved as read
 - i. Tom – first
 - ii. David Wantuck – second
 - iii. All in favor

II. Accessibility Reminder – reviewed at the beginning of the meeting

- a. Please use the hand button on Zoom
- b. Please share your name before speaking each time.
- c. When passing a motion, please state your name before saying you first or second.
- d. If you are sharing your screen, please read what is on your screen for those who are not able to visually experience what is on the screen.

III. Old Business

- a. FM System in the Town Hall

- i. Topic – Ability to hear during Town Board meetings for those present in the meetings in person and on Zoom.
 - ii. Dave Willer in IT sent a photo of the new plaque that is outside the hall that includes information about the FM System, how to access it, how to get assistance, how to program your Cochlear Implant or Hearing Aid to receive audio directly into your personal device.
 - 1. Dave Willer was not able to confirm how well the systems work with cochlear implants/hearing aids.
 - 2. David Wantuck said he can test the system at the next Town Board meeting. He reminded the group that not every device will work with this.
 - 3. Can invite Dave Willer to the August Meeting to share his expertise on tech-related concerns and issues.
 - iii. Town Website – 2-3 Year Refresh Schedule – This is when improvements take place on a regular cadence. Town of Amherst website is managed by the IT department (not a 3rd party vendor).
 - 1. David Wantuck asked about the accuracy of the captions in YouTube video. He shared some of the downfalls of captioning.
 - 2. Erica also said they discussed using CART transcription.
 - iv. Erica made a motion to invite Dave Willer to a future meeting. Tentatively August.
 - 1. David Wantuck – First
 - 2. Dave Whalen – Second
 - 3. All in Favor
- b. Town of Amherst Webpage Accessibility - Erica asked if anyone had any website feedback
 - 1. David Wantuck mentioned a free plug in that can increase accessibility such as increasing font size, adapting for color blindness, etc. Erica mentioned another option called Accessi-B – a service that can screen a webpage for accessibility compliance.
 - 2. This can also be discussed with Dave Willer.
- c. New Mission Statement Flyer
 - i. Changes were all made as suggested last month. Erica will work with Marty to get these printed for tabling events.
 - 1. Motion to approve this as the final copy
 - a. Erica – First
 - b. Sue – Second
 - c. All in Favor
- d. Tabling Events and materials
 - i. Dave Whalen shared what materials we have now
 - ii. Rachel asked if we could put resources on our webpage so people could access them online anytime.
 - iii. Senior Center Event Health Fair – July 27th at Amherst Senior Center
 - 1. Need volunteers to table this event

- a. Erica
 - b. Sue
 - c. Possibly Dave Whalen
- 2. Erica asked if we have a budget for the committee – i.e. snacks to share with visitors to the table.

IV. New Business

- a. Chong Cheng sent an email to Erica regarding an idea for a database for residents to access services available in the Town
 - i. Suggestion to commit to giving more support to residents with special needs in the Amherst Community. With the question of what is the current capacity of current services within the community. Somewhere to summarize information i.e. summer camp, after school program, etc.
 - ii. Want to understand what the Town responsibility is on these issues. Town sanctioned and affiliated programs and events to ensure they are available to people with different needs.
 - iii. Possibly a database or list on the website of available services.
- b. Future Guests and Projects
 - i. David Willer – August
 - ii. Chief of Police – Chief Chamberlin
 - iii. Emergency Management – Brandon Peters
 - iv. Highway Superintendent - Steve Floss
 - v. Erica will draft invitations for the remainder of the year to each party.
- c. Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
 - i. Making sure this is available to specific Town facilities
 - 1. David Wantuck – reminder that it is not replacing live, in person interpreting. This would be to help with people coming in for specific circumstances that need VRI assistance and an in person interpreter is not available.
 - 2. Dave Whalen suggested figuring out which places should have VRI that would be most likely to make use of it. Reminded group that you are only charged a fee when you use it – you do not pay for it if it's not used. (i.e. police cars, Northtown Center, Town Hall and then it is at the ready if it is needed)
 - 3. Motion – Prepare a communication from Committee to the Town Board requesting discussion to begin implementing VRI at Town Facilities (will be drafted by Erica and David Wantuck)
 - a. David Wantuck – First
 - b. Dave Whalen – Second
 - c. All in Favor

V. Next Meeting

- a. No Meeting in July – Enjoy your summer!
- b. August 12, 2024

VI. Closing

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm
 - i. Motion to adjourn
 - 1. David Wantuck – first
 - 2. Jamie – second
 - 3. All in favor