

**TOWN OF AMHERST  
COMMITTEE on DISABILITIES MINUTES  
September 9, 2024**

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

| Other Participant Name                            | Present/<br>Excused | Address if applicable |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Town of Amherst Liaison – Angela Marinucci        | Present             | N/A                   |
| ADA Coordinator – Bob McCarthy                    | Present             | N/A                   |
| Bill Prenevau – Building Department               | Present             | N/A                   |
| Interpreter – Vanessa                             | Present             | N/A                   |
| Interpreter – Barbara                             | Present             | N/A                   |
| Secretary to the Council Members – Martha Taggart | Present             | N/A                   |

**Guests:**

Brandon Peters, Director of Emergency Services and Safety, Town of Amherst  
Darc Will, Safety Coordinator, Town of Amherst

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm.

**I. Minutes**

- a. August minutes reviewed.
- b. August minutes approved as read
  - i. Erica Rodman – first
  - ii. Tom Roetzer – 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 your 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. Guest Speaker**

- a. Brandon Peters and Daric Will
  - i. Emergency Management and Safety
    - 1. Due for a comprehensive emergency management plan review for the Town. (What we do in the Town during a large event – guides us in a time of disaster). Would like to include the Committee on that as well to share subject matter expertise to make sure all people are represented.
      - a. Erica suggested setting up a separate meeting with Erica, Dave Whalen, Brandon and Daric.
    - 2. Winter Weather – Emergency Preparedness
      - a. Daric will be taking charge of social media interactions related to this. Will also reach out to Dave Whalen for guidance.
      - b. Erica asked if we had anything specific for supporting people in the Town with disabilities in light of what we learned during the 2022 Holiday storm. Brandon noted that they recognized that they need more planned staff support during storms (prepping for this prior to the incident) and to increase information sharing between Town departments in preparation for emergencies.
      - c. List of residents who may need assistance during emergencies: Erica asked how we can direct residents to submit their own name. Brandon explained there is a webpage and form that can be submitted this way through the town. Amherst Fire Control keeps the record in their dispatch software. We would like to share this information with our residents, Erica will follow up.
    - d. Shelters – Amherst Senior Center (primary)
      - i. Decisions on which shelter is open depends on each emergency and what is happening in real time.
      - ii. David Wantuck has also been in touch with them about VRI and interpreting services at shelters.
      - iii. Rachel suggested some sensory items that could be helpful such as noise blocking headphones for those who may be bothered by crowds/noise.

### **IV. Old Business**

- a. **Town of Amherst Website Changes – Preliminary recommendations**
  - i. Asked the Committee to visit our webpage over the next month and to make recommendations for what can be removed and also suggestions for what

items we'd like to add. Erica will send a reminder email prior to the October meeting.

## **V. New Business**

### **a. VRI for Town Facilities**

- i. David Wantuck talked to the interpreting department – Town has access to the VRI. They need a point of contact for all of the VRI to be activated. Will work with Town officials to identify who this will be.

### **b. Future Guests and Projects**

- i. Chief of Police – Chief Chamberlin – Confirmed for October
  - 1. Angela shared that he may have to send a representative, but someone will attend from this department.
- ii. Highway Superintendent - Steve Floss – invitation pending for November.

### **c. Positive Feedback**

- i. From a Town resident who attended the August meeting, positive feedback was shared with Angela as well as with the Town Board at a recent meeting. This resident said they felt welcome and that the meeting was well run.

### **d. Agenda for October visit from Amherst Police Department**

- i. Current status on training on disabilities that is received by Police Department.
- ii. VRI and interpreting services and supports available.
- iii. David Wantuck shared two situations he is aware of that occurred recently that involved accommodations needed by people with disabilities when interacting with police.
- iv. Luci recommended some kind of “cheat sheet” or quick access for assisting people with disabilities that could be readily available.

### **e. Town of Amherst Staff – Training on Disabilities**

- i. Discussion to provide training to all Town of Amherst staff on interacting with residents with disabilities.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

- a. October 7, 2024 @ 6:30 pm on Zoom
- b. November 4, 2024 @ 6:30 pm on Zoom
- c. No meeting in December

## **VII. Closing**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm
  - i. Motion to adjourn
    - 1. Luci Miranda– first
    - 2. David Wantuck – second
    - 3. All in favor