

Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee

Mission Statement: "The Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee is dedicated to creating awareness of ADA concerns while providing information about, advocacy for, and solutions to the Towns's ADA-related needs and issues."

Friday, January 11, 2013

Meeting convened at 10:05AM, Whitney Nichols presiding as Chair.

Present: Whitney, Gary Snyder, Bob Sisler, Geni Tamerattia, Missy Boothroyd, Hannah O'Connell, Candace Stoumen, Barb Sondag. Guests: Mary Habig, Deb Baker(ASL), Kathy Achilles, Joe Hart

Absent: Leah Stuart, Liz Snyder

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER

The date changed from 12th December to 14th December 2012. Spelling of last names to: Kathleen Achilles, and Gary Snyder

MINUTES APPROVED: motion made by Gary and second by Bob S.

OLD BUSINESS

- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY Whitney asked Hannah if she would be willing to either: Speak to the Brattleboro Police Dept. to see if they are willing to send a representative to attend these meetings; or, if she is willing to be the liason between this committee and the BPD. Hannah responded with several questions: What is the purpose to have them attend?
- Kathleen stated: We want them to be acutely aware that there is a Large deaf community living in this town. Hannah asked: How can we let the Deaf/ADA community know various details that are ongoing in a Real-time fashion? Such as the current glitch at the 5-way intersection on Main St.?
- Bob stated that wouldn't it be reasonable to post a traffic officer for the safety of the pedestrians when the traffic lights are down?
- Missy contributed that in terms of media, many of the deaf/ADA community are not able to afford a regular newspaper delivery; so the Town is not reaching the vulnerable population by only posting in the paper. She offered to Hannah: If you send an email to her at VCIL then she will distribute it through her contact list and to the Austine School.
- Joe emphasized the fact that this Town seems to be very indifferent to the requirements of Federal ADA compliance standards, rarely attends these meetings, and has in general has a "no can do" response.
- Geni offered that maybe it is time this committee draws up a Formal Complaint against the Town to be sent upline to the Federal level of ADA compliance. Any Town can be fined for non-compliance of ADA municipal standards.

SELECTBOARD NEWS: none.

NEW BUSINESS

- ADA COMMITTEE BYLAWS: Mary will email copy from last month to Geni.
- REPORT ON SPIL – STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING 2014-2016: The SRC – State Rehabilitation Council – Public Hearing. The first meeting
- ADA FIELD BASED TRAINING: The New Center of ADA has sent out 'Request for Proposals (RFP) for Municipalities in Vermont' to all municipalities, including Brattleboro. The purpose of the Field-based training day is to train

participants on how to conduct an existing facilities review and identify operational solutions that would improve accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act. There will be a \$1000 award to the chosen municipality. Barb was sent this via email from Kim Brittenham. This committee also received a hand-out.

- WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT: until April 15th, there will be no parking overnight on any street in Brattleboro. (handout in minutes packet)
- BAZELON CENTER HANDOUT: from Whitney. Reference the Sandy Hook shooting. This handout is from the 'Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. It cites: "the lack of access to the crucial community mental health services that people want and need."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mary will email date/time of upcoming phone conference on New Task Force on Transportation. Phone number is: 1-888-850-4523, 970825# this phone conference will include Barb Donovan of Vermont Transportation division. Focus is on Transportation for non-medical appointments.
- Missy: Disability Awareness Day will be held on Thursday, March 28 in Montpelier. We will be working on Transportation to this very important event.
SILC Breakfast will be on Thursday, March 21. In Montpelier. She will email details to this committee.
- Gary: People's Bank is to install a 'door opener' this month at its Main Street location.
- Mary: CRT(CT River Transit) will be redoing entire website now. www.crtransit.org .
- Barb: Department of Transportation Public hearing date: March 7, at 6PM, in Selectboard Meeting Rm of the Municipal Bldg. RE: changes to Putney Rd.
- FYI: Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, which will begin in July 1, 2013 will include ASL interpreters at All Selectboard meetings.
- Community Equity Coalition: this is a committee which focuses on Diversity Events in Town. Barb will email the contact information to Geni , to be put in these minutes. They have been coordinating the 'Diversity Day' public event for Three years. Do this in conjunction with BUHS. They are requesting someone on this ADA committee to volunteer and work on this committee. Mary Habig said, "No, email this info. To VCIL." However, in this particular instance the contact information should be included in these minutes. It can also be sent to VCIL for their uses.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM sharp.

Next meeting will be: Friday, February 8, 2013 at 10:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Geni Tamerattia

15 January 2013