

Brattleboro Town Advisory Committee for Americans with
Disabilities Act of 1990

Minutes for June 14, 2013

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 Town's ADA-related needs and issues."

Meeting convened at 10:01 AM

Whitney Nichols presiding as Chair.

Members Present: Candace Stoumen, Melinda Underwood, Gary Snyder, Missy Boothroyd and Deb Baker(ASL interpreter), Hannah O'Connell (Public Works), Geni Babkirk (secretary), Whitney Nichols.

Guests present: Andrea McAuslan, Kathleen Achilles (Access program), Peter Seares (RSVP Brattleboro, Program Mgr.)

Members Absent: Leah Stuart, Elizabeth Snyder, Barb Sondag

The meeting began with a review of the mission, and basic introductions. Missy made a statement regarding ASL interpreting to explain how it works: Others should pause before speaking after a signing person, so that the interpreter has time to finish speaking and interpreting what was just signed.

There was no review of the minutes from May's meeting.

It was agreed unanimously that we will assign an alternate scribe for taking the meetings' minutes. This person currently will be Melinda Underwood, in the event that Geni Babkirk is not able to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of ADA Town Transition Plan.: A copy of the ADA Transition Plan from 1997 was found and has been forwarded to Barb Sondag, Town Manager.

VT Transportation Task Force: Mary Habig is no longer working for CRT; therefore, we do not have an update from this Task Force. We will need to find an alternate to keep us in the loop of this important piece of ADA lifestyle needs.

Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee Bylaws: Report by Hannah – she was told to relay to us that there are currently no Bylaws for this committee.

ADA official website: is www.ada.gov . Whitney highly recommends that everyone take a look at this useful site.

Olmstead Act and the State Plan for Independent Living:
www.ada.gov/olmstead/index.htm.

Select Board News: Gary reporting: the town will be repairing the east side of Main Street sidewalks in 2014.

Community Relations

CRT news and follow up with Austine School: this will have to be tabled and discussed at our July meeting; due to the abrupt departure of Mary Habig. We must inquire of CRT as to a replacement to attend our meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

We are very saddened at the surprise disappearance of our colleague, Mary Habig. We filled out a card to forward to her.

Julie Tamler had to reschedule her appearance to speak today. She will be speaking and updating us about the plans for a new drop-in center for the disabled community.

Job Accommodation Network: Is a website listing of all the different kinds of disabilities, and then a list of all the possible worksite accommodations. www.askjan.org

VT Assistive Technology Program: this is a state website. An excellent resource for finding any kind of assistive tech needed. www.atp.vermont.gov.

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and State Independent Living Council (SILC)

OTHER BUSINESS

Geni introduced our guest, Peter Seares, who is the area program manager for the RSVP organization, for all of Windham county.

Melinda asked about the statewide Teleconference in May. Missy responded that she was the only person in attendance. Obviously email outreach by SILC must be improved and/or other public relations improvements.

Andrea McAuslan introduced herself as a private citizen seeking two specific pieces of information: 1) names of any professionally trained people (architectural, legal and construction) who know the ADA inside and out, and do formal, very thorough, detailed accessibility audits/assessments full time as a living, and 2) any information on grant/funding resources for modification projects. Ultimately, she would like to develop this information into a resource list for the community. She is hoping to offer support to a couple of organizations herself and thinks this information could be useful for helping the entire county become more accessible.

Melinda explained that her organization is private, non-profit. They sometimes team up with the state department of blind and visually impaired. They are the organization that puts on the 'White Cane Awareness' every October. Their offices are located in: South Burlington, Rutland, Montpelier, and Brattleboro. (brochure enclosed) website: www.vabvi.org

Hannah followed up to Gary that repairs have been made to the sidewalk that passes in front of the Library. Gary expressed his gratitude.

Kathy and Missy brought up a question to Hannah: What is the status of the crosswalk in front of Agape church on Canal street? Hannah said that it is no longer functional and has been erased. But they replied that this is confusing to the deaf and visually impaired and mobility impaired community due to the fact that the sidewalk still has the access ramp cut into it.

Andrea offered the reminder that anyone, including people with disabilities, should feel they have a right to contact their town reps and select board members just as regular citizens, about any issue, including this one.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Gary Snyder, second by Missy, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Next meeting: July 12, 2013 at 10:00AM, Marlboro Grad center, Room 1NE.

Respectfully submitted,

Monday, June 17, 2013

Geni Babkirk, secretary