

Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, 08/12/2016, 10:00 AM
Hanna Cosman Meeting Room, Municipal Center

Attendance:

Committee members, Julie tamler, reuben schottland, gary snyder, elizabeth snyder, gail kennedy haines

Others: Krystale Chicoine, Whitney

Opened the meeting at 10:00

Chair/Julie introduced how she leads:

Everyone will get to speak, everyone has something to offer. Therefore, people will speak briefly.

We will begin right on time. If people come in late, quietly have a seat and listen to catch up.

We will read minutes, agenda, and all reports before each meeting.

We will try to have copies of 'the above' on table in meeting room 10 minutes before meeting so that people can read them then if necessary.

Julie asked people to assist her and give feedback regularly

Edits of last meetings minutes:

Julie read the minutes. In future, all reading will occur before meetings.

Motion by gail to accept minutes, gary seconded, all approved.

Unfinished Old Business:

Posters: It was decided that Julie would make copies of the three posters (voting, wheelchair access and disability friendly events) and Elizabeth and members of the Inclusion Center would post them around town.

Chair explained quorums, and closed meetings: no back and forth, no 'reply all' to emails or gatherings of majority of members or this constitutes being a private meeting and that is not legal or wanted by any of us.

All understood.

Discussion on how to encourage liaison to attend ADA meetings. Gary expressed frustration on not having liaison at meetings. Discussion included: the ease of connecting with town officials now that we are in the same building. It was decided that as long as the town is following our input, their regular presence is not necessary. It is, however, wanted.

New Business:

Chair briefly outlined what an ADA committee is responsible for (noticing ADA issues in the town, coming up with recommendations on how to deal with them and giving the input to town officials).

Each person attending the meeting spoke on what they could imagine we would do some day (no matter how reasonable or outrageous an idea), and what their particular interests are. Discussion followed on how to put the ideas into reality.

1. Whitney: educating others about invisible disabilities

Action: We would begin with a table at Gallery Walk and Farmers Markets where we would teach and discuss the topic of invisible disabilities. The Inclusion Center would help make a tri-fold on this topic. Krystale and Gail would attend these tables.

We would also have a presentation at our next meeting by Whitney and learn about invisible disabilities.

We could make posters teaching about this subject and post around town.

We will build toward having a presence at local events (such as Wellness Fair in the Fall and Strolling of the Heiffers)

2. Gail: making sure that all town meetings are accessible for all (closed captioning available for BCTV viewers of the meetings, interpreters at the meetings.

Action: Julie would contact Peter to learn if the filming of the selectboard meetings do have closed captioning and how are meetings advertised, is there any wording on the announcements making it clear that people's needs (related to disability) will be met.

3. Krystale: wanting to have a presence at town events teaching about disability and the law.

See action #1.

4. Elizabeth and Gary: Wheelchair accessibility in our area

Action: We recall (but might not have this correct) Town Manager, Peter Elwell had described forms to fill out with address of location that needs work, with single line naming the issue.

Julie will contact Peter to learn more about this.

Elizabeth and Gary will note down the addresses with a single line naming the issue at the location (such as sidewalk needs repair, bushes in the way, etc). Elizabeth will email the information to Chair.

Reuben: assessing the accessibility of the local schools

Action: Reuben and Julie might visit the schools before school begins. Due to the over stimulation of schools when in session, if it is not possible to visit during this summer then the evaluations will happen either during school vacations or next summer.

Julie: voting accessibility, review all town written materials (websites etc), have members of selectboard and town officials meet with us one at a time.

Action: Julie and Gail had met with Brattleboro town clerk to discuss voting accessibility issues. It's noted that the town clerk was very open to hearing all we had to say and then began to put into effect much from our input.

Gail will write up a list (bullets?) of our suggestions so that others can read this and learn from it.

General Announcements:

Gail may not be at next meeting due to surgery.

Elizabeth won't be at meeting in winter due to surgery.

Final discussion was on how to have adequate parking available for people attending the ADA meetings. Jan was asked to come in and discuss this with us. It was decided that at each ADA meeting we would be handed parking passes for the next ADA meeting.

Next meeting is Sept 9th, 10:00 a.m. in Selectboard Meeting room (generally will be held in Hannah Cosman room but when there is a conflict we will meet in Selectboard meeting room).
