

Brattleboro Town Advisory Committee for Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Minutes for August 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: Gary Snyder, Missy Boothroyd, and Deb Baker(ASL interpreter), Hannah O’Connell (Public Works), Geni Babkirk (secretary), Whitney Nichols.

Guests present: Kathleen Achilles (Access program),

Members Absent: Leah Stuart, Elizabeth Snyder, Candace Stoumen, Bob Sisler

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.

Review of minutes of July. Corrections made: spelling of two words, Carol Lolatte and Crocker Building. Minutes approved unanimously with motion by Gary and second by Missy.

Barbara Sondag, former Town manager is officially resigned from this committee. She has relocated to another state.

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. Hannah stated that she will now be responsible for reporting this update to this committee.

VT Transportation Task Force: Karen Sinclair was invited to this meeting but did not attend. Kathleen volunteered to give updates to this committee regarding CRT’s possible new route to stop at Austine School.

Brattleboro ADA Advisory Committee Bylaws: Report by Hannah : Hannah distributed copies to all in attendance of a Draft of By-Laws. She stated that there are several people she knows

of who wish to sit on this committee but cannot because the Selectboard will not make the selection process until this committee formally adopts By-Laws.

This town advisory committee has been in existence since the late 1990s, but there is no evidence of bylaws in the town's archives.

Whitney will send the draft as an attachment to Geni. Geni will attach when she submits the minutes via email. The members of this committee must be prepared to discuss at September's meeting any revisions to this draft. Would like to vote to adopt by November's meeting.

Selectboard News: none

Report on Traffic Safety committee: Hannah stated she will now be responsible for giving this report.

Proposed Disabled Community Drop-In center: the next meeting of this group will be on Monday, 12 August, 10:30AM at the Austine School Holton building, 3rd floor conference room. Geni attends these meetings, as does Kathleen and Missy. There are two meetings each month: First Wednesday at 4PM at the Brooks Library, Community room. And Second Monday at 10:30AM at Austine – this meeting provides ASL interpreter.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Resignations: Discussion was generated regarding several members of this committee who no longer attend monthly meetings. Missy suggested that Whitney write a letter to all members of ADA committee and see if they are still interested to be on the committee. Indicate that if not interested to please submit in writing to the committee Chair, who would be Whitney. Also in this letter indicate the current review/discussion of the By-laws.

Whitney submitted a hand-out: "10 Things You Need to Know about the ADA", from the July 'Disability Connection' newsletter, from www.disability.gov.

OTHER BUSINESS

New Discussion on providing ASL interpreters at Town Meetings: At issue: Never an ASL interpreter present/provided by the Town at Open Public meetings; this is an ADA Act Federal compliancy issue. Hannah suggests that this committee submit to the Town Selectboard/Town Manager the section of the ADA law that clearly states the above; i.e...."if a request is made for ASL interpreter to be present at town committee meeting....". Hannah

would also like to see a form created for making such a request that could be posted on the Town's website.

Kathleen stated that already in place is a service called the VT Interpreter Referral Service. So that when a request comes in to a Town office, the person responsible at Town administrative level, simply contacts the VIRS. However she said there is great demand and requires a lead time of months in advance of a meeting, so it is much better for the Town to agree and budget for regularly scheduled ASL interpreters at the main public meetings/forums.

Geni asked Kathleen if the new technology for ASL interpreters would work at a meeting. Kathleen replied it has been tried and does not work in that type of environment.

Hannah stated that she will make the request to the Town that in future all public meetings, when they are warned, will include information of whether or not an ASL interpreter will be present. And the Town will contact VIRS.

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

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

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Gary Snyder, second by Kathleen, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:12AM.

Next meeting: September 13, 2013 at 10:00AM, Marlboro Grad center, Room 3 C.

EMAIL ADDRESSES For this committee's leadership: Whitney Nichols whtnnic@gmail.com, Gary Snyder garysnyder32@yahoo.com, Geni Babkirk Jeannie.arbonne@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Geni Babkirk, secretary

Tuesday, August 13, 2013