

Town of East Haven, CT
American With Disabilities Act Commission
Minutes
March 15, 2012

Prior to the business meeting, Mr. Art Desorbo gave a report on some items that the town was looking to purchase to help disabled citizens. He also talked about some of the work that the Town was looking to do to better improve the facilities. The Town is looking into the purchase of 1 or 2 beach wheels chairs, these chairs would allow disabled residents to move along the sand and also enter the water. They would be able to go across the street to the splash pad. A tele-coil switch is going to be purchased for the Town hall for use by hearing impaired residents. Public Works will be looking at the Town Hall parking lot to see about having all the cracks resurfaced and well as making the handicapped entrance saddle easier for wheelchairs to get over. Art will talk to the Police Department about better patrolling the handicapped spaces in local parking lots. They will also work on ways to publicize these new purchases, so that residents know what is available to them. Art will act as a liaison to the committee to inform them when capital money is available so the committee can work on getting more of the deficiencies from the Transition plan worked on.

1. Chairman Robert Hoff called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. The approval of the minutes were tabled until the next meeting.
3. Discussion on Handicapped spaces at Town Building
The Transition plan stated that there were not enough spaces at the Senior Center. There was discussion that it does meet code, as only part of that parking lot is Town owned.
4. Correspondence

Mr. Hoff had received a note from James Trimble thanking the committee for the work they do and asking to be informed of any upcoming events. He also suggested a Make A Difference Day in the fall.

5. Discussion on beach wheelchairs

This topic was covered in the report by Mr. Desorbo.

6. Discussion on spring conference

The commission is looking into the possibility of a spring informational presentation. Having it taped by ETV would be helpful for those residents who can not attend. This would be a good opportunity to start a voluntary database of disabled residents. The commission will meet in April to discuss this further.

7. Discussion on upcoming Food Drive for East Haven Food Pantry

The Commission is sponsoring a Food Drive at the East Haven Stop and Shop on March 31, 2012 from 9am to 2pm. There was discussion on contacting PATCH about tying in a story about the Food Pantry.

8. Discussion and possible vote on Town Transition Plan and submitting plan to Town Council.

Mr. Desorbo had met with Mr Pileggi, the architect, and they had prioritized about 20 items in the plan to work on that were the most doable and affordable.

9. Discussion on town's ADA Coordinator

Candy Criscuolo , the new ADA Coordinator, was in attendance tonight, and stated that she would work with the Commission and Town as well as attend the meetings.

10. Discussion and selection of ADA Outreach program to help children with disabilities.

There was discussion on what the commission can do to help with the social stigma for children with disabilities. The High School or Middle School will be asked for suggestions on a self esteem program. This may be a difficult task as children do not like to be recognized.

11. Discussions on working with and assisting town's business to seek and hire disabled residents.

The Chamber of Commerce is going to be hosting a Breakfast with the Economic Commission. This would be a great opportunity for the commission to talk with local business about hiring the disabled.

12. Discussion on setting up a meeting with the High School's ADA/504C Coordinator .

This was covered in item number 10.

13. Adjournment.

Mrs. Desorbo made a motion to adjourn at 8:23, seconded by Mrs. Musco. All in favor-motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Vineyard, Clerk