

Town of East Haven, CT
American Disability Act Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2017
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Members Present:

Vice-Chair Jan Cianelli
Commissioner Rick Famiglietti
Commissioner Wendy Bellmore

Staff Present:

Sal Brancati, Director

Members Absent:

Chairman Brian Savo
Commissioner Joe Vellali
ADA Coordinator Candace Criscuolo

Vice-Chair Jan Cianelli called the meeting to order at 7:05P.M. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bellmore made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Famiglietti seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and no one abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Old Business

Director Sal Brancati reports that last month there was discussion about waiving permit fees for handicap related improvements. He spoke with several Councilmen including the Chairman. They were fine with it as long as it pertains to something of handicap nature whether it is bathrooms, ramps, doorways, etc. Vice-Chair Cianelli asks if they should go before them to present this, she has no problem doing it. Mr. Brancati says he doesn't think that would be required, they were pretty agreeable and he can explain it the night of the meeting for them. Commissioner Famiglietti asks if they are going to put restrictions, because things can't always be made ADA compliant cost wise or structure wise, so sometimes they may do just enough so that it works. Mr. Brancati says no, as long as it meets what they are pulling the permit for that is all that would matter because the permit is based on what they say they are doing and it would be waived anyway. He says he and Town Attorney Joseph Zullo will get together and draft the language that has to go to the Council. He also spoke with the Building Department and they had no issues with it either.

Mr. Brancati says another thing discussed at the last meeting was whether or not our Police Officers go through any kind of training for if they were to pull someone over that has any

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mental or physical incapacity and how they deal with those folks. He reports that yes, they do send them for training and the last time they went was June of 2016. Vice-Chair Cianelli says that is for when they pull someone over, what about other instances. He says this includes interactions on the streets, calls that come in in addition to when they pull someone over. Commissioner Bellmore says they wouldn't limit their training to just one thing, it would apply to everything. Commissioner Famiglietti adds that what is sometimes difficult for the Police isn't so much that they don't know how to treat them, but if they don't have a visible disability, how can they recognize it. Mr. Brancati says the training they are supposedly doing teaches them how to recognize that; there can be people in distress or that have a mental illness that they can't see as well as any physical illness that they can see. They did citizens with special needs, CIT familiarization and new face of law enforcement training; Lt. Tracey is the one in charge of that. Commissioner Bellmore says for some people who have medical problems they wear an alert bracelet or a necklace/something that indicates their handicap or if they are diabetic, special medication, etc. but we don't put a tag on them for mental incapacity. Vice-Chairman Cianelli says the school gives out cards but the card is never displayed.

New Business

Mr. Brancati mentions that during the last snowstorm there was an issue where someone fell on the Stop & Shop sidewalk traveling between Stop & Shop and Messina Drive. He points out that the sidewalk is their responsibility. Vice-Chair Cianelli explains that Chairman Brian Savo called the Police Department and Public Works beforehand, he took pictures of the sidewalk and he was told by the Police Department that they were not the snow police. They were supposed to go into Stop & Shop and inform them that the sidewalk was not properly shoveled. It is a Town Ordinance and the Police didn't know it was their obligation to go into Stop & Shop, it is in the Ordinance and if they don't comply they get a ticket. Commissioner Bellmore says it was a big snow storm so she recommends that it would be a good citizen thing to place something in the local newspaper reminding them of the laws. Mr. Brancati says they did contact Stop & Shop and temporary Clerk Danelle Feeley reports that Frank from the Mayor's Office sends it out electronically to all of the media outlets, puts it up on the website, etc. reminding everyone about both the parking ban and the sidewalk ordinance as soon as the snow starts and they come into effect. Mr. Brancati says there were several places that did shovel but it was not done in an acceptable fashion such as Hemingway Ave where you couldn't cross the street if you were in a wheelchair/walker; they cited 53 businesses in Town for not shoveling during the storm. Commissioner Bellmore says they shouldn't be out during the storm, it is not safe. Vice-Chair Cianelli asks if there are any children who go out

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and shovel for the elderly. Commissioner Bellmore asks if they don't adequately do the sidewalks, does someone do it for them and send a bill. Mr. Brancati says no, they issue a citation, they get a fine and have to both pay the fine and do the sidewalks or else they get a fine of \$100.00/day. He adds that they are going to the Council to raise the fine to \$250/day. If they don't pay the fines, the Town liens the property. Mr. Brancati says they are now keeping a close eye on the ramps/intersections so there is clear access to cross the streets. They ended up sending pay loaders out as they always do to clear these ramps and intersections that weren't cleared or people blocked in.

Commissioner Bellmore asks about the hearing devices. Mr. Brancati reports that they do have them, and they include notice on all Agendas that they are available. To date, he has not been contacted by anyone requesting to use them.

There being no other business to come before the agency, a **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M. by Commissioner Bellmore and seconded by Commissioner Famiglietti. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Danelle Feeley
Temporary Clerk