

**Town of East Haven, CT**  
**American Disability Act Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2014**  
**Page 1**

**Members Present:**

Vice-Chairman Kerry Martens  
Commissioner Dave Stevens  
Commissioner Michael Tufano  
Commissioner Dan Hoff  
Commissioner Joe Vellali

**Staff Present:**

None

**Members Absent:**

Chairman Brian Savo

Vice-Chairman Martens called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Vellali made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and Commissioner Tufano seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Hoff asked why the minutes haven't been posted on the Town's website in a timely manner. It was explained to Commissioner Hoff that the minutes are sent to the Town Webmaster along with the Commission Members by email and he would need to contact her to get that information.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Commissioner Tufano stated that he would like the meeting dates sent to the East Haven Courier to publish. It had been done in the past and they hadn't been putting them in. The clerk will send the list of meeting dates to the East Haven Courier so that the public may be informed when there are meetings.

**Discuss & Take Any Necessary Action on the ADA Breakfast with the Chamber**

Vice-Chair Martens stated that Jenn Higham wasn't able to attend tonight to discuss the Breakfast with the Commission. Vice-Chair Martens asked if anyone had any other ideas. Commissioner Vellali asked if the Breakfast was actually moving ahead to which Vice-Chair Martens replied yes, it is, it's just a matter of what the Commission was interested in doing with regard to speakers, etc. Commissioner Stevens asked who the

**Town of East Haven, CT**  
**American Disability Act Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2014**  
**Page 2**

Commission was interested in having to speak at the Breakfast. Vice-Chair Martens stated that sometimes had accountants, or local businesses that they would talk to about hiring people with disabilities, etc. Commissioner Stevens stated that he had spent his entire life overcoming adversity and the biggest hurdle is to educate people that people with disabilities have something to contribute to society. He has done motivational videos and does motivational speaking, has been involved in the Wounded Warriors Program and also works at ESPN.

Commissioner Vellali made a **MOTION** to have Commissioner Stevens speak at the Breakfast and Commissioner Tufano seconded. All they needed was a date for the Breakfast. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

**Discuss & Take Any Necessary Action on the Hagaman Library**

The commissioners looked at the pictures that were sent to them regarding the room at the Library where shows and presentations are given which isn't handicapped accessible. Commissioner Tufano stated it didn't look like there would be room for a ramp the way the room is configured. Vice-Chair Martens read the letter from the Library Director and he explained the photos that were in the email. The elevator there is also non-compliant. Vice-Chair Martens will send an email to Chairman Savo about sending a letter to Art DeSorbo and the Mayor as the Library has a budget for projects like this. Commissioner Hoff suggested that they touch base with Michele DuPrey, a former Commission member and head of the Department of Services for Person with Disabilities in New Haven, who would be more familiar with projects and requirements for something like this. Commissioner Vellali stated that he and the others members should go visit the Library so everyone could be on the same page to discuss it at greater length at the next meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that maybe Steve Haddon, the Chairman of the Library Board be mailed and asked to attend the next meeting.

**Discuss & Take Any Necessary Action on the Senior Center**

Chairman Savo explained to Vice-Chair Martens that the strips were installed on the ramp.

**Town of East Haven, CT**  
**American Disability Act Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2014**  
**Page 3**

**Other Business**

Commissioner Stevens asked some questions regarding local businesses and whether or not they are grandfathered in for not having to be ADA compliant. Several businesses do not have handicapped accessibility into their establishments and some he has had to go in through the back door. Some businesses don't plow handicapped parking spaces well enough and there is not enough enforcement with the abuse of handicapped spaces.

A discussion was held with regard to how difficult it is to manage getting around Town when businesses don't do their part, especially during snow storms. Commissioner Vellali will look into a few establishments that were discussed and ask that they become compliant. Simple things, such as moving garbage cans so someone in a wheelchair can get in the door without having to move the can. Commissioner Stevens suggested that a letter be sent to the Police Chief asking about the Constables that are appointed in Town and what do they do. Maybe they could be the enforcers with regard to the spaces and businesses. Also discussed was the possibility of starting a committee from the ground up to fight for what they need for ADA compliance. Vice-Chair Martens spoke about the binder that has the timeline for ADA compliance for Town Buildings and could bring it to the next meeting.

There being no other business to come before the agency, a **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 by Commissioner Vellali and seconded by Commissioner Tufano. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna  
Clerk