

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday January 26, 2010
2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

I. Recording Attendance:

Present: F. Goetz, W. Gibbs (Chair), K.A. Easley (staff), J. Tanner, J. Blanshard, K. Grunwald (staff), Melissa Shippee (guest)

Regrets: J. Sidney (will be unable to attend for the remainder of the semester), C. Colon-Semenza

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the November 24, 2009 meeting (December meeting was cancelled) were approved with the correction of the spelling of Rebecca Arther's name. W. Gibbs has spoken with her, and she indicates that she is still interested in working with this committee.

III. New Business

a. Volunteer Driver Program: K. Grunwald provided an update on the status of the volunteer driver program. J. Blanshard stated that she periodically needs transportation at the last minute. K. Grunwald explained that a volunteer driver program would not necessarily respond to this need, as there would be a need to make arrangements ahead of time. She also recommended that we publicize information about existing transportation resources, including the Ride Share program on the Town's website. Several suggestions were made as to how to publicize this, including the Glen Ridge newsletter and Sparks, along with the website.

b. Municipal Transportation Grant: J. Blanshard suggested using this grant for transportation to the library and the Willimantic Food Co-op. We could pilot expanding the route beyond pick-ups at Glen Ridge, Juniper Hill and the Senior Center. K. Grunwald raised concerns about the length of the route if

we do this. There was also some discussion about the use of Peapod grocery delivery for homebound individuals. There is a \$60 minimum charge, along with a small delivery fee. We will explore promoting this through the Senior Center and assist individuals who may not have access to the computer.

- c. Commission on Aging: K. Grunwald reported that the COA has invited this committee to one of their meetings. The Committee will attempt to attend the March meeting; W. Gibbs will not be able to attend; K. Grunwald suggested that the Committee prepare a brief presentation for that meeting.

- d. "Other": J. Blanshard requested that we change the meeting time to accommodate J. Sidney's schedule. K. Grunwald will check with her for available times and email options to members.

IV. Old Business

- a. Follow-Up on Wright's Way Resident Concerns: Supposedly the chain to the driveway will be removed from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. F. Goetz reports that this has not happened. K. Grunwald will follow-up with Rebecca.

- b. Accessible Parking Fines/Signs: The Town purchased 30 signs indicating a \$150 fine for violation of accessible parking spaces. W. Gibbs suggested sending a letter to local commercial property owners to encourage them to add these signs in their parking lots. He will send a draft of the letter to K. Grunwald. J. Tanner asked about who regulates UConn parking. W. Gibbs will follow-up with this. K. Grunwald will find out if the Town can purchase the signs and resell them. J. Tanner will do an informal audit of the number of spaces in Town.

- c. Publicity efforts: Please send website links to Kathy Ann for developing links to the Committee's page on the Town's website. Melissa Shippee stated that it is a challenge for a parent of a child with disabilities to connect with other parents of children with special needs. J. Blanshard suggested exploring the bus company as an aid to identify other parents. K.A. Easley asked if we could invite someone from the school system to join this committee?

d. Status of other accessibility issues previously identified: There was some discussion about access issues related access to privately owned buildings in Town. K. Grunwald provided an update on the status of issues at the Community Center.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM; next meeting is scheduled for February 23 at 2:30. Proposed Agenda Items: Network of Parents of Children with Disabilities. K.A. Easley asked about the status of this committee functioning as the ADA Grievance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald