

Town of East Haven, CT
American Disability Act Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2018
Page 1

Members Present:

Acting Chair Joe Vellali
Commissioner Wendy Bellmore
Commissioner Rick Famiglietti

Staff Present:

Joe Coppola-Asst. Director

Members Absent:

Chairman Brian Savo
Vice-Chair Janet Cianelli

Acting Chairman Vellali called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 Bellmore made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 24th meeting. Commissioner Famiglietti seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and no one abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Old Business

The commission discussed the issues from previous meetings that they would like to address with the Police Department with regard to their training and how they are taught to deal with people with hidden disabilities, such as seizure disorders, autism, deafness and mental illness just to name a few. Acting Chair Vellali stated that the commission should get direction directly from the PD and that he would like to host an informal committee meeting at his home to discuss this issue in more detail so the commission could bring their concerns to either a Police Commission meeting or have the Chief attend one of the ADA Meetings. After a brief discussion, it was decided to hold the informal meeting on March 15th at 6:00 or anytime after. Commissioner Bellmore will send out an email to all tonight.

A discussion was held again regarding the lack of sidewalks from Hemingway Avenue to the Town Beach. Commissioner Bellmore stated that it is a highly used area which is absent of a safe passage. There are mothers with baby carriages, small children, people in wheelchairs that can't get down to the beach without being in the street which is dangerous. Chairman Savo was going to reach out and see who has responsibility for that part of the road, but is absent this evening.

Town of East Haven, CT
American Disability Act Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2018
Page 2

Acting Chair Vellali stated that the crosswalks were never put back on Coe/Bradford after it was repaved and they should really be put back for safety reasons. The Police Department is in charge of line painting so they will add that to the list of things to discuss with the PD along with the other issues they'd like to discuss. Commissioner Bellmore stated that the commission could attend the next Police Commission meeting as a group, and they can speak there once the commission meets to go over all items they would like to see happen.

Commissioner Bellmore stated that Vice-Chair Cianelli was asking for the last 3 years of budgets and statements to see how much money the ADA has and where it has gone and who approved any charges. Asst. Director stated that a request can be made to Paul Rizza, the Finance Director and they would have someone get them for review.

New Business

Commissioner Famiglietti asked about meeting times and could they be changed to an earlier time. The Town Charter does not allow for the times to be changed. Please see below:

Sec. 2-8. - Public meeting times.

(a)

Definitions. For purposes of this section:

Board shall be defined as any multimember public agency of the Town of East Haven within the meaning of G. S. § 1-18a(a) as amended from time to time.

Meeting shall be defined as a meeting, within the meaning of G.S. § 1-18a(b) as amended from time to time, of a board or subcommittee.

Special meeting and *emergency special meeting* shall have the same meanings as they do for purposes of G.S. § 1-21 as amended from time to time.

Subcommittee shall be defined as a group of members of a board to which the board, by its rules or actions, delegates specified duties or responsibilities.

(b)

General rules. Except as otherwise provided herein:

(1)

No meeting of a board or subcommittee shall be held on a Saturday, Sunday, federal holiday or state holiday.

(2)

No meeting of a board or subcommittee shall be held on July 3, the day before Thanksgiving, December 24, or December 31 in any year.

(3)

Town of East Haven, CT
American Disability Act Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2018
Page 3

No meeting of a board shall commence earlier than 7:00 p.m., and no meeting of a subcommittee shall commence earlier than 5:00 p.m.

(c)

Exceptions.

(1)

No provision of subsection (b) shall apply to emergency special meetings.

(2)

The provisions of subsection (b) shall not apply to the board of assessment appeals (a/k/a board of tax review), which board shall be allowed to meet as provided for in G.S. § 12-110, as amended.

(3)

A special meeting of a board or subcommittee may be held on a day or at a time not otherwise permitted by subsection (b) for one of the following purposes, which shall be stated in the notice of the meeting: observation of sites or activities which cannot readily be seen during the prescribed days or times; observation of projects or activities which are conducted primarily during days or times other than those prescribed; or obtaining pertinent information from persons or sources not readily available during the prescribed days or times. No business shall be transacted at any such special meeting unless it is directly related to such purpose and it would not be feasible to postpone action until the next regular meeting of the board or subcommittee.

Commissioner Bellmore asked how the commission could get information out to residents regarding what the committee is and does. Commissioner Famiglietti stated that it's difficult because how could anyone know if they don't have computer access to explain what it is the commission is. This item will be discussed at the informal meeting as well.

Commissioner Bellmore stated that a disabled resident asked to have their sidewalk repaired quite some time ago, due to tree roots causing the sidewalk to rise. Director Coppola stated that it depends if it's a Town sidewalk or private. This particular resident had to have it fixed himself. Commissioner Bellmore said we as people need to be helping other people but we don't have the resources at times.

Other Business

The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2018 at 7:00.

There being no other business to come before the agency, a **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. by Commissioner Famiglietti and seconded by Commissioner Bellmore. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna, Clerk