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Stoughton Disabilities Commission
Minutes from meeting on 1/26/2023

OFFICE OF
TOWN CLERK

Present: Charlotte Mullen, Ann Maderer, Michael Hardman, Allison Puliafico, Christiana Odunze (note taker)

Absent: None

Ms. Ann Maderer made a motion to open the meeting and seconded by Ms. Allison Puliafico. A roll call vote was held, and all were in favor. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

There were no citizen comments.

Ms. Ann Maderer motioned to approve the minutes from the 12/1/22 meeting and seconded by Allison Puliafico. A roll call vote was held, and all were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Regarding creating bylaws and compliance with state & federal regulations, the commission chairperson Charlotte Mullen reached out to Jeff Dugan from the Mass. Office on Disabilities for guidance in beginning this process. He had previously sent sample bylaws, which Charlotte will share with members of the commission. Members will also research Randolph, Rockland, Amherst, and Easton towns. Michael will follow up to see if a representative from the Randolph commission will join a future meeting.

Charlotte and Ann met with the SMAC employees at the Great Hall in Town Hall to set up and trial the new assistive listening system. It worked well and is ready for use by the public. An additional piece is still on order that will allow users connect the sound system to their cell phones. Going forward, SMAC employees will ensure the receiver units are kept charged. Instruction cards will be created and kept with the units. We will encourage the town to make an announcement before each meeting that the system is available. Charlotte has also emailed Deb Roberts, chairperson for the select board, and Thomas Coulter, New Town Manager, to inform them about the system.

Regarding the possible purchase of an "all terrain" wheelchair for Story Brook Trail and other outdoor locations: The commission discussed the liability issues and storage concerns and will explore having a liability disclaimer that borrows will need to sign. The commission also agreed that wheelchairs could be stored at the library and/or recreation department if their space permits. Charlotte will be reaching out to the recreational director to invite him to the next meeting.

Ann reported that she distributed brochures to all identified sites except Commission on Aging building. Ann noted that we need to make some edits and add some announcements such as the hearing devices and wheelchair. The commission agreed edits will be made before printing new brochures.

Charlotte checked in with the director regarding the library furniture and larger keyboard and mouse. Commission may consider paying for the keyboard and mouse using the parking fund money. The commission will wait to hear back from the library director.

No update on the SMAC TV production. Charlotte inquired if the commission can do something on its own or if it is still planning to weave in something with other programs. Michael will provide an update at our next meeting.

Other announcements included: The virtual meeting order from the state is ending in March. We will await further information from the Town Clerk's office. The annual report to the town will be submitted to be included in the May Town Meeting warrant. Charlotte, Allison, and Michael's seats will be up for reappointment this year.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Maderer and seconded by Mr. Michael Hardman. A roll call vote was held, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.