

Westport Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting of May 22, 2017

Members present at the Town Hall Annex were Stanley Cornwall, Martin Costa, Anders Newcomer, and Brian Gallagher, Raymond Phoenix via teleconference call. Recording clerk Robert Barboza was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by Mr. Cornwall. A motion was made by Mr. Costa, and seconded by Mr. Newcomer, to allow remote participation by telephone by members Raymond Phoenix and Brian Gallagher; the vote was unanimous. A motion to approve the March 27, 2017 meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Phoenix, and seconded by Mr. Costa. The vote to approve was unanimous.

An update on grants was provided by Mr. Cornwall, noting \$5,000 in gift money had been disbursed, including the last grant of \$1,000 voted for Westport veteran's groups. At the recommendation of the veteran's service officer, \$250 awards will be made to four veteran's organizations to support their operations and services. Mr. Cornwall also reported another \$1,000 donation to the commission came in this week, from the same benefactor; suggestions for future grant awards were invited for discussion at the next meeting.

There was no update available on the progress of the parking plan for the Head of Westport landing. There was no update available on attempts to discuss accessibility issues at the State Road post office with the owners of the property. On the matter of improving accessibility at Greenwood Terrace, Mr. Costa reported that he will meet with the Westport Housing Authority to discuss grant assistance for an automatic door opener. He estimated the expense at about \$2,000 per door, and suggested that gift account funds be offered to help finance the project. Mr. Cornwall noted a balance of about \$5,251 remaining in the gift account.

There was no update on a prospective meeting of the town's ADA executive summary implementation committee; commission delegates have been approved. Under Other Business, Mr. Cornwall opened nominations for a new commission chair, effective June 1, 2017. Mr. Newcomer nominated Mr. Gallagher, in a motion seconded by Mr. Phoenix. The vote to appoint Mr. Gallagher was unanimous. Mr. Cornwall was thanked for his spirited leadership of the commission in the past several years, and offered his assistance to the new chair in the upcoming transition period.

The next meeting was set for 3:45 p.m. on Monday, June 26 at the Town Hall Annex. A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 4:15 p.m. from Mr. Newcomer, and was seconded by Mr. Phoenix. The vote was unanimous.

Approved June 26, 2017