

Westport Commission on People with Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday May 20th, 2021 - 9:00am-10:00am
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Jim Ross, Marina Derman, Stacie Curran, Doug Rivkin, Tom Holleman, Joe Anastasi. Present from Human Services: Elaine Daignault, and Deirdre Eckholt. Absent - Diane Johnson.
Audience who choose to identify: Sal Liccione
Guest - Sue Pfister, Westport Senior Services

Jim R - quick review Apr minutes - And note a rule - members of Commission & Agenda topics to be addressed prior to us opening for public comment.

Motion to approve minutes - Tom 1st, Marina 2nd - All in favor.

Sue Pfister - The center continues events on Zoom, YouTube, Channel 79 to engage Seniors.

Drive Thru meals - Wednesdays (5 packed meals each), they offer delivery too.
New Parking lot for Senior Center, Library & Police Dept being completed now, they have gotten permission for permeant canopy on terrace for programing and outside meals. Soft re-opening will be July, and will follow vaccination regulations to full opening in Sept.

Food distribution - 60-75 boxes a week to clients.

Doug R. - Visual/Technology issues- he is available to assist. He and Sue may connect.

Elaine D. - Human Services recap:

Town did an ADA assessment, found places need improvement, Sr. center is up to date other places we can explore as group or individuals.

June 3 - Accelerate your mental toughness program 6-7:30pm

Deirdre E - will be working with Middle School kids

Toquet Hall is open - some programing, supporting Mental health and brining adults with disabilities back together will be important work for the new social worker coming, June 14th.

Stacie/Marina - comments: making sure we stay on course covering what is relevant to our group

136 Riverside Ave - First space approved, supported housing - will be run by Abilis, Independent Units. Elaine will get some more info/back to us, when clearer as to how the decision for its residents will be made and not violate Fair Housing Laws.

Transportation Budget was restored - Discussion Door-to-Door needing 24 hour notice and prior approval, and Wheels2U - Peter Gold hopes to expand the use of this service. Town may subsidize funds if you live outside the door-to-door corridor. (\$20,000 set aside for this)

Rick Redness - was able to offset affordable housing component

FHL - Fair Housing Law - need to be fair and equitable - may not be Westport residents Abilis has done this before - maybe we invite them to speak?

page 2

Employment is For Everyone:

Marina:

We don't know how to meet with - the 4 of us. We can't meet enough to make progress.

Suggests we meet in 2 weeks. make announcement, give notice, etc., All Agree.

Joe A - meeting with DMA & Chamber - once these take place, Jim Marpe IS on board to do press release re., CPD is launching, with joint support from DMA & Chamber, "Employment is for Everyone", then we can engage all agencies, not be exclusive, show them we will support them and we need them.

Notice will go out - our next meeting for this Employment piece will be June 3rd 9-10am.

Jim Ross:

He is now joining Disability Rights CT, Winn Evrets Deborah Dorfman, replacing Gretchen. He is looking forward to this new role.

Motion to Adjourn:

Stacie 1st, Joe 2nd - All in favor

10:00am