Minutes
Falmouth Commission on Disabilities
Thursday, January 14, 2021 @ 2:30pm
Meeting 2nd Thursday of month @ 2:30pm
Meeting to be held digitally via Zoom due to COVID

In accordance with the Governor’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, the October 9, 2020 public meeting of the Commission on Disabilities shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be held via Zoom video conference. The public can view and hear the meeting in real time by joining the Zoom video conference.

2. Real-time public comment may be permitted at the discretion of the chair utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments may be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting as determined by the Chair.
   a. Zoom Login instructions:
      i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address: http://www.falmouthmass.us/DisabilitiesCommission
      ii. ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.

3. Public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to disabilitiescommission@falmouthma.gov at least 5 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email in advance of the meeting. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.
Call to Order: 2:40pm

Public Comment: Dick Pooley spoke about the progress on the Emerald Garden and the efforts they made to make it accessible. More information can be found out emeraldcommunitygarden.org

Establish Quorum: Paul, Denise, Kathleen, Rhona, Caroline, Will were present.

Introduction of new member: Caroline Knox.

IMMEDIATE BUSINESS
Review and acceptance of Minutes: motion by Rhona, 2nd by Denise. Caroline, Kathleen, Paul abstain; Denise, Rhona, Will vote to accept. Minutes accepted.


OLD BUSINESS
Handicap Parking Patrol Update – Officer not present, no report

Transportation Management Committee update – No report

Update on request for funds from the Falmouth Dog Park – Denise reports that it is not a project we can fund under our charter as a commission per Frank Duffy, Town Counsel.

NEW BUSINESS
Kathleen spoke about issues with housing facing citizens with disabilities and need for a potential housing list of citizens who are in need of housing that could be provided when accessible housing sites are looking for tenants. Will and Kathleen to attend the next meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee at the request of their chair, Ed Curley, to learn more about their thoughts on this issue.

Operating as a Commission in the current environment - Promotion of Commission mission and outreach: Discussion of how to move forward as a commission was had with broad discussion of advertising and outreach as well as previous efforts and activities of the commission. Motion by Rhona to “Have each commissioner prepare a list of their top 3 priorities for the commission to undertake over the next year to be voted on by the commission to create a plan for our collective goals for the next year.” 2nd Kathleen. Paul abstains; Denise, Kathleen, Caroline, Rhona, Will vote aye. Motion approved.

Officer elections to be on next months agenda.
Motion to adjourn by Kathleen, 2nd Denise. Denise, Kathleen, Caroline, Rhona, Paul, Will vote to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.