

Commission for the Disabled — Minutes

Monday, Nov. 20 Large Conference Room 5:00 pm

D. Ciota, T. Phillips, C. Calabro, C.Santori, E. Pearson, W. Kenyon

Convene: 5:01

1. Public comments

Girl Scout Troop #50669 and leader Pam Banks expressed some questions to the Commission. Commission Chairman D. Ciota explained our mission and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

2. The minutes of the Oct. 23 meeting were read; Commissioner E. Pearson requested that the phrase “heavy action by the Department of Justice” be changed to “possible legal action by the Department of Justice.” (This change has subsequently been made.)

3. Chairman Ciota made a motion to move Agenda item 3 (vote on bids submitted in response to our RFQ regarding town compliance with ADA) to come after the Winter Club presentation — carried unanimously.

4. Emmett (Bud) Brown and his team presented plans for the Winter Club building. They intend that it will be ADA-compliant in all regards.

(The following portion of the minutes was recorded by Commissioner E. C. Pearson, and edited by Chairman D. Ciota):

After the completion of the informational session presented by Emmet Brown and his staff regarding a proposed Winter Club in Ridgefield, on Peaceable Road, the Chairman indicated that Item 3 on the Agenda needed to be discussed and voted upon. W. Kenyon, Commission Secretary, had to leave but indicated that he was in favor of the bid that had been submitted by the Institute for Human Centered Design. D. Ciota,

Commission Chair, requested E. Pearson to take the minutes for the remainder of the meeting in the absence of W. Kenyon.

The next agenda item was a consideration of the bids for a Consultant to perform a town wide assessment of Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance (ADA). The Chair stated the task of the Commission was to review, discuss and vote to recommend one of the bids to the Board of Selectmen. He then submitted a summary of the two lowest bids, one from the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD) located in Boston Massachusetts, and the next lowest bid, submitted by Meeting the Challenge located in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A discussion occurred regarding a comparison of the bids and the familiarity of the Commissioners with the reputation and work of the bidders.

The Chair solicited the final votes of all members of the Commission and four out of five members, namely W. Kenyon, D. Ciota, C. Calabro, and C. Santori voted in favor of IHCD, with E. Pearson abstaining.

The final item on the Agenda, namely choosing the dates and time for meetings for the calendar year 2018 was discussed. Everyone readily agreed that the Commission should return to meeting on the second Monday of the month, subject to the availability of a suitable room. There was some discussion about changing the starting time to possibly 6:00 P.M. or 7:00 P.M., but the final vote was unanimously in favor of keeping the present starting time of 5:00 P.M.

A motion was made to adjourn which was passed unanimously at 6:55 P.M. The Chair indicated that the next meeting would be December 18th at 5:00 P.M.