Minutes Wellfleet Commission on Disabilities meeting - held via zoom
January 14th - 4:30 pm

Present: Kate Clemens, Fred Gentner, George Harris, Jim, McAuliffe

No official minutes were available for review as prior meetings had not contained a quorum.

New Business:

1. The committee members introduced themselves to one another and gave brief descriptions of their backgrounds / experiences that would benefit the committee.

2. Mr. Gentner provided a brief update regarding the status of Hatch’s ramp which is currently not ADA compliant and not wheelchair accessible. Hatch’s is privately owned, but is located in a town parking lot. Prior to WCOD having a quorum, Mr. Gentner had met with the town building inspector regarding the ramp. However, that inspector is no longer a Wellfleet employee. The new inspector had been on the job about a month at the time of the Commission’s meeting.

   - The committee passed a motion to invite the Building Inspector and the owner of Hatch’s to a future WCOD meeting.

3. The committee discussed Wellfleet’s lack of an ADA Coordinator - which is a state requirement for municipalities and a prerequisite for any grant applications that might be made. Wellfleet must have an ADA Coordinator and a process for filing grievances. Having an ADA Coordinator is also a prerequisite prior to submitting for grant funding to assist with a town Needs Assessment. Mrs. Clemens shared that the town’s website still identifies Ms. Courtney Butler as the ADA Coordinator even though she is no longer employed by the town. Mrs. Clemens shared that she had exchanged emails with Ms. Congel (Town Clerk) regarding the need to fill this important position. Ms. Congel, wrote that she would touch base with Ms. Eldridge (Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator) regarding this. Mrs. Clemens offered to reach back to both and check the status on a replacement.

4. Dr. Jim McAuliffe discussed the town’s lack of a Municipal ADA Improvement Assessment There are grants monies available for town’s that meet the prerequisites The next grant window for FY 2023 is August 2022. There are two types of grants: Planning and Project. The first step would be for Wellfleet to complete the Planning portion which includes a town needs assessment. The grant would be used for creating a Self-Evaluation and/or Transition Plan as
required under the Administrative Requirements of Title II of the ADA.  
https://www.mass.gov/municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-grant

- The committee passed a motion to request to be on the select board agenda in April, with the purpose of updating them regarding the Self-Evaluation /Town Needs Assessment.

5. The members discussed natural linkages to other Town agencies such as: the COA, Wellfleet Elementary School Special Needs Advisory Council (SEPAC), and Outer Cape Health Services Community Navigator program that may wish to have representation on the Commission - Dr. McAuliffe, Mr. Harris and Mrs. Clemens agreed to reach out to these agencies.

6. The next meeting was set for March 4th at 4:30 via zoom.

Respectfully submitted by

Kate Clemens