



**City of Gardner
Disability Commission
95 Pleasant Street, Rm. 14
Gardner, MA 01440
(978) 630-4001 • Fax (978) 630-4025**

**MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Knudsen, William (Tommy) Davis, David Hackett, Sabazius Athame, Aimee Ouellet and Debra Pond

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Hurst

The meeting commenced at 3:00 PM in Rm. 128 of Gardner City Hall.

1. Review and Approval of May 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve May 9, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Aimee Ouellet, with a second by Sabazius Athame.

Vote taken: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0

2. Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities – monthly conference call updated.

Anne Hurst, the Commission member who participates in the conference calls was not in attendance at the meeting.

3. Heywood Apartments – Outdoor Pool.

Eric Knudsen reported that the handicap chair lift has been installed. Debra Pond reported that the chair lift has been inspected by the City Building Department. Mr. Knudsen requested that the chair be raised (it is adjustable). He is not sure if the adjustment has been made, but will check and report back to the Commission.

4. Old Business.

- a. Commission Facebook Page.

Discussion continued about the positive and negative aspects of creating a closed group Commission Facebook page. For now Commission members agreed to send items for posting to the City for the “What’s going on in Gardner” section of the City’s Facebook page.

Important posting for the Facebook page is a resource list. Members of the Commission will work on this list.

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b. Creating a Questionnaire.

Mr. Athame has inquired about a clear definition of what being disabled is so that the questionnaire can be drafted with clear and concise questions.

c. Local religious facilities – accessibility.

Discussion about ability to attend social activities at local religious facilities, such as Holy Rosary Church. Ability to attend events such as dinners, is hindered by inability to get down into the hall location (can only get to hall via staircase). When he has inquired about accessibility, Mr. Hackett has been told that “something is going to be done.” He has not seen any movement on this front.

Mr. Athame is going to bring a list of the religious facilities in the City with contact information to the next meeting. Contact will then be made with the respective facilities to discuss accessibility.

d. Crystal Lake Park.

Tabled until next meeting.

5. New Business.

Discussed possibility of setting up a table at the Sidewalk Sale. Commission members have limited availability the weekend the Sidewalk Sale is being held. Ms. Pond will look into viability of obtaining a space and manning a table.

Mr. Knudsen reported that the Regional Disability Meeting is being held in Middleboro on August 15, 2018. Please let Mr. Knudsen know if you would like to attend. Must get in touch with Jeff Dougan regarding attendance at the meeting by August 8, 2018.

6. Schedule Next Meeting.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

3:44 PM Meeting adjourned.