

April 12th Fitchburg Disability Commission Monthly Meeting  
Located at the Garden Room, Fitchburg Public Library  
Commission Members:

Jeffrey Wolfgang	Co-Chair	Present	
Bill Tolos	Co-Chair	Present	
Mary Ann Guichard		Present	
Sheela Tallamraju			Resigned from Commission 3/28/2018
Sharon Tardiff		Present	
Carolyn Quirk		Present	
Kathy Hamelin	Absent		
Nick Carbone	Absent		
Doris Matte	Absent		

Guests: Amy LeBlanc and Deanna Tardiff attended as Guests of the Disability Commission.

*Item 1:* Meeting commenced at 10:10am.

**Disability Complaint:**

A resident of Leominster came to the Disability Commission to file a complaint. The members listened to the Complainant and determined that the Leominster Disability commission has jurisdiction over the incident that occurred. The complainant was given the Leominster Disability Commission Information, the Veterans Legal Aid number and Information from Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. The Complainant thanked the Commission for their help.

**Minutes Announcements/Notices/Events:** Disability Minutes were voted on & accepted for the months of December of 2017 and January of 2018.

All Disability Commission Members were invited to the regional meeting which will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Community Center (Building 19) of Golden Heights, Located at 10 Golden Heights in Webster, MA.

Guich announced that she is accepting/collecting bottle lids/tops to be turned in for people, to help supplement the cost of Cancer Treatment(s).

Bill announced that the Amputee Association of New England will be holding a Walk-A-Thon on April 29, 2018 at Orchard Hill Club in Lancaster from 12-4pm.

**Disability Awareness Event Follow-up:** The survey results were compiled by Amy and discussion followed, some of the suggestions were: location of event was good, bright location with lots of parking and accessibly, some thought the event was a little long maybe change the hours cut off 15 minutes in the beginning and in the end, serve some type of food/snacks, let the Monty Tech Students set up their snack bar and serve brownie/cookies, more coverage of the event, flyers, articles, internet, it was estimated that the event drew a crowd of about 160 people.

Bill thanked everyone for making the event a Success!

**New members for the Commission**

The Commission is looking for new members to fill the 2 vacant slots and also to fill the Secretarial position that is now open.

***Old Business:***

Several complaints have been received concerning the weight of the doors in several businesses located in Fitchburg, Bill and Guich will go and conduct site visits and discuss their findings at the next meeting.

The Accessible Art Studio Painting Class was held on March 3, 2018, at The ARC of Opportunity and was a huge success. There were 62 Students/Artists that came out to paint and several that came to watch the process. The artwork was displayed at the Fitchburg Disability Commission Resource Awareness Fair and received much praise. An article appeared in the Sentinel and Enterprise highlighting the Accessible Painting Class.

***New Business:***

Discussed the purchase of a tablet or iPad for the Commission when going out on Site Visits for documentation.

Discussed the purchase of a Banner to promote the Awareness Resource Fair.

It was asked that all Commission Members bring in all paperwork involving/pertaining to the Disability Commission to the next Meeting held in May so that it will be stored/filed in one central location.

Motion to adjourn, meeting at noon. The next meeting will be held on May 9th at 10:00am, Garden Room, Fitchburg Public Library.

