

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Fitchburg Disability Commission Monthly Meeting  
Located at the Garden Room, Fitchburg Public Library @6:00pm.

Commission Members:

Bill Tolos	Chair	Present
Mary Ann Guichard		Present
Sharon Tardiff	Absent	
Deanna Tardiff	Absent	
Carolyn Quirk		Present
Kathy Hamelin	Absent	
Nick Carbone		Present
Doris Matte		Present

Amy Leblanc, attended as a Friend of the Disability Commission.

Guests at the Disability Commission meeting were: Sheryl Hirst, Richard Avant, both are Fitchburg residents and Sam Squailia, Fitchburg City Counselor.

**Item 1:** Meeting commenced at 6:00pm

**Item 2: Open Forum:** Sam Squailia wanted to bring attention and make the Disability Commission aware of the route from 50 Day St., to Market Basket on Water Street, she said that she has received several complaints about the conditions of the road/sidewalk and the crosswalk to the Dollar Store across from the Market Basket on Water Street. Residents from 50 Day Street are having a difficult time accessing the route to Market Basket/Dollar Store both located on Water Street.

MassDot is replacing the Bridge - Bill and Guich will go and do a site visit of the route and access the situation and see if there is a short term fix that can be done now to ensure safety on the route.

**Item 3: Minutes Announcements/Notices/Events:** Bill had several announcements; the Greek Church would be holding their festival this coming weekend from 11:00am – 10:00pm, & The Amputee Association is holding a raffle: Tom Brady's signed helmet and T-shirt, for tickets contact Bill.

Gateway City will be doing a study on accessing your local parks, there will be a kick-off meeting on October 4, 2018, at 6:00pm located at Fitchburg State University, Hammond Building, they will be looking for your input.

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

**Item 4: Disability Awareness Event – 2019,** tabled for now, main event planner not at meeting.

Deanna will make and have flyers available (Save the Date for the Disability Resource Fair) at the Community Resource Fair. The date for the next Disability Resource Fair is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Wednesday, at Monty Tech High School, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

**Item 5: *New Members for the Commission:*** Potential new members were not able to make the evening meeting.

**Item 6: *Community Resource Fair:*** 9/13/2018 from 4-7pm expecting a big turnout. Bill asked that all commissioners make it to the fair if possible.

**Item 7: *MOD Municipal ADS Improvement Grant:*** Amy and Nick will be working on putting the Grant together. Discussion about identifying the needs in the City of Fitchburg and then applying them. Amy would like to apply for a planning grant to hire a consultant to work with the city to update the City's Self Evaluation and Transition plans.

This process will identify and prioritize work that needs to be done allowing us to focus efforts appropriately in the future.

The Commission voted - all were in favor for Amy to proceed.

**Item 8: *Accessible Art Studio Painting Class:*** The next class will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at The Arc of Opportunity on Main Street in Fitchburg, MA. This class will be a “Poured Acrylic Paintings”, no experience is necessary, the class is an inclusion classroom open to all abilities. If interested text Carolyn at 978-235-0062.

**Item 9: *Wallace Towers:*** Sheryl Hirst (guest at the meeting) sent a letter to Housing Division concerning an access ramp at Wallace Towers. The Access Ramp would be used by the residents at Wallace Towers to access the patio so residents can enjoy some outdoor space. Sheryl stated that she has not received a reply to her letter as of the date of the Disability Commission Meeting. Carolyn asked Sheryl to send the letter again by certified mail. Nick will make contact with Wallace Towers.

**Item 10: *Old Business:***

**Progress on obtaining a Tablet for site visits:**

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

- The Fitchburg IT Department will provide the Commission with a I-Pad/Tablet.
- Pending.

**Item 11: *Motion to adjourn,*** meeting at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10th, 2018, at the Garden Room, Fitchburg Public Library, at 2:00pm.

