

Town of Greenwich

First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

9:15 a.m.

Department of Human Services Conference Room

Present: Michael Beloff; Lori Contadino; Joe Dowling; Mary P. Forde; Alan Gunzburg/Chair; Jim Heavey; Laura Heckman; Debra Mecky; Jacalyn Pruitt; Paul Morell; Gaby Rattner; Deanna Rafferty; Joe Roberto; Lolli Ross; Kate Soboleva; Donna Spellman; Luis Velazquez, Alan Barry

Opening remarks: The meeting was called to order at 9:15am. Chair Alan Gunzburg cited a recent article he read drawing attention to the fact that people with hearing impairments are unemployed at a 40% higher rate than those without hearing impairments.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting as presented; with all in favor the motion passed unanimously.

CT Radio Information System (CRIS): Laura Boogaert and Chris Kelly presented on this nonprofit radio reading service started in 1978 that reaches primarily people who are visually impaired but also reaches out to those with others who are unable to read or physically handle printed materials for various reasons. They broadcast 24/7 from five locations throughout Connecticut. They feature articles from more than 70 newspapers and magazines covering a range of information including headline news, talk shows, grocery store ads, obituaries and a broad variety of resources. They have increased their reach to include 99 schools in Connecticut as well as hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers and museums. They have 200 plus volunteers. They also offer resources in Spanish. People who wish to participate fill out an application. Programming can be accessed through mobile devices, internet radio, CRIS website, mobile app and other sources.

ADA Compliance Issues: Accessibility at the newly renovated historical society was discussed with an update on the doors that are difficult for some people to open and accessible parking with hash marks for mobility vehicles. It was reported that the doors are being addressed. Joe Dowling asked why they were not equipped automatic door openers. Alan Gunzburg reported that there are limited accessible parking places on Mason Street but arrangements are being made to allow for access for those who need to access businesses.

Property Tax Credit for Persons with Disabilities: Alan reminded committee members of the tax relief for seniors with limited income in Greenwich as well as those who have a disability.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18 at 9:15am.