

Town of Greenwich

First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Department of Human Services Conference Room

Committee Members

Michael Beloff, Florence Griffin, Lise Jameson, Joe Dowling, Alan Gunzburg, Paul Morrell, Luis Velazquez, Lolli Ross, Brita Darany, Alan Barry, Peter Tesei

Attendees:

Town Personnel

Joe Roberto, DPW Highway Superintendent Highways

Lori Contadino, Commission on Aging Director

Amy Siebert DPW Administration, Commissioner

James Heavey, Police Administration, Chief

John Thorne, Police Administration, Sergeant

Alan Monelli, DPW Administration- Superintendent Buildings

Tyler Fairbairn, Community Development & Grants Administrator

Jodi Couture, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Jason Kaufman, DPW Administration Civil Engineer

Katie DeLuca, Planning and Zoning, Director

Mary Pepe, Human Resources Administration, Director

Joseph Siciliano, Parks and Recreation Administration, Director

James Michel, DPW Administration, Deputy Commissioner

Barbara Omerod-Glynn – Greenwich Library Administration, Director

Cameron Martin, IT Administration, Digital Content Editor

Lisette Contreras, Housing Authority, Town of Greenwich (for Anthony Johnson, Executive Director)

Guests: Russell A. Davidson, FAIA, President, KG & D Architects

Call to order:

Alan Gunzburg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Alan stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to reboot the Advisory Board with an emphasis on ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliance, in existence since 1990. Together with Title II, of the ADA, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided to the public by State and local governments, except public transportation services.

The vision, mission and goals of the committee can be found on the town web-site.

Joe Dowling, from the ADA Architectural Compliance subcommittee, shared thoughts on the physical aspects of accessibility and the need for interpreting the guidelines of ADA, especially at doctor's offices where multiple issues present themselves including in the parking lot. A discussion ensued regarding

this committee as a change maker, approaching office managers etc. in a positive way and promoting universal design which helps everyone regardless of age or ability.

KG & D Architects, represented by Russell Davidson have been consulting with Greenwich for one year specifically looking at the condition of Greenwich Schools in terms of functionality, security and upkeep. The average age of the schools is 64 years old and ADA issues are prevalent, in particular 4 schools (OG, Riverside, JC and Havemeyer and Cardinal Stadium. The master plan to remediate problems will be presented to the BOE at the end of May whereupon the BOE will set priorities. The findings will be discussed at the Greenwich Public Schools Facilities Improvement Meeting – Greenwich High School 7:00PM on May 22nd.

Joseph Siciliano (Parks and Recreation Administration) added that the Byram Pool will open soon and the site is completely handicapped accessible from the parking lot to the zero entry pools (gradual slope from ground level down into the water).

Lolli Ross discussed ADA Birthday Celebration on or near 7/26 hopefully taking place at Greenwich Point. The celebration will include educational components. All plans will be reflected on the town web-site.

The Advisory Committee seeks future members from all constituencies thus increasing its broad base reach.

Planning Conservation and Development meeting will take place 5/17, Cole Auditorium, 7 PM. Housing questions will be clarified.

Old Business: A brief discussion ensued regarding sidewalks (estimate for Greenwich: 265.3 miles of public roads and 145 miles of sidewalks). Peter T. believes the review of sidewalks and the consequent documentation is sufficient to identify problem areas slated for repair. Peter asked the group to focus on access to and within public buildings and conditions of these buildings.

Next meeting: July 16, 2018