

Town of Greenwich
First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2018
9:30 a.m.
Hayton Conference Room

Committee Members

Peter Tesei, Alan Gunzburg, Lolli Ross, Joe Dowling, Florence Griffin, Brita Darany, Alan Barry, Michael Beloff

Attendees:

Town Personnel

Joseph Roberto
Katie DeLuca
Joseph Siciliano
Lori Contadino
Kate Sobolena
Mary Forde
Anthony Johnson
Alan Monelli

Call to order:

Alan Gunzburg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Members and guests introduced themselves to the group.

The minutes from the May 7 meeting were approved.

Age Friendly Designation: Lori Contadino

Lori reviewed the initiative and summarized the statistics about the growing number of older adults in the US.; the demographic shift in the number of older adults and the increase of persons in this age group. She explained that the initiative began in 2006 with the World Health Organization to improve communities around the world. In 2012, AARP initiated a national effort. In 2016, a Greenwich application was accepted and now a formal process is underway for designation as an age friendly livable community. The goal is to reduce/eliminate barriers in 8 domains of livability: Outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information and community and health services. The outcome is to improve the quality of life so residents will have longer more productive lives.

This spring and summer a survey and focus groups are collecting information from Greenwich residents. There will also be a walk about team formed. These efforts are to gather information from Greenwich residents on their priorities and to directly observe the barriers for older adults. There will be an action plan completed by the end of the year.

Another component of this initiative is to incorporate dementia friendly education and training with the Greenwich public and businesses. Also want this to be disability friendly. There will be a dementia training on September 25th. Chamber of Commerce involvement.

Lori mentioned that there are many positive examples of Greenwich being an age and disability Town. Examples: ramp at the Senior Center, Cos Cob Park and recently completed Byram Pool complex. Areas of concern were identified by the group. How to maintain elderly/disabled in the community, need to expand housing, recent proposed expansion of Greenwich Housing Authority project, inclusion of the intellectually challenged and autistic individuals, and issues of substance abuse.

Group also discussed limitations of the Chamber of Commerce platform in setting up ADA compliance education programs for businesses. Suggestion that Building Department publicize ADA, law and zoning for building codes.

Updates:

Alan Gunzburg reported that a USPS Relay mailbox blocking the sidewalk at the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Booth Place was removed after a meeting with the Post master. Neighbors were very appreciative after not being successful for years.

Meetings took place with Voting Registrars regarding school accessibility for the primary election in August and the mid-term election in November. Several schools will require some additional assistance to accommodate disabled voters.

Meeting took place with Parks and Recreation staff on accommodating tennis courts for pickleball and discussion on paddleball courts.

Very productive meeting with Joe Siciliano concerning ADA compliance and the Town parks. 5 parks will be reviewed using the current landscape survey report.

Joe Dowling commented on the improvement in Old Greenwich sidewalks, however access to Gazebo at Binney Park remains a problem.

ADA Celebration:

Lolli Ross reported on the planning for the upcoming ADA anniversary celebration that will take place at the Byram Pool on July 27th. Peter Tesei will present a proclamation, Alan Gunzburg will review goals of the ADA Committee, introduction of ADA Coordinator, Alan Barry, who will report on how to contact the Department of Human services on any ADA compliance issue. There will be two speakers on the topic of "I am your Neighbor". Tour of the ADA compliant pool.

New Business:

Katie Deluca announced that on July 19 there will be Town Hall open meeting on the Plan of Conservation.

Next Meeting:

September 10 at 9:15 AM

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM