

**Town of Greenwich**  
**First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2019  
Department of Human Services Conference Room

**Present:** Alan Gunzburg, Joe Dowling, Jim Heavey, Brita Darany von Regensburg, Alan Barry, Michael Beloff, Stephanie Cowie, Joe Siciliano, Kate Soboleva, Ben Branyan, Peter Tesei, Mary Forde, Lori Contadino, Lise Jameson, Donna Spellman, Allyson Buck, Amy Siebert, Tyler Fairbairn

Guests: Caroline Bailey, Eli Schaffer and Tatiana Flowers

**Introductions and Announcements:** The meeting was called to order at 9:18am. After all the attendees introduced themselves, Chairman, Alan Gunzburg welcomed the group and thanked them for their attendance at the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was introduced by Mike Beloff and seconded by Joe Dowling to accept the meeting minutes of the July, 2019 meeting; minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

**Greenwich Audubon ADA Accessibility:** Caroline Bailey and Eli Schaffer from the Greenwich Audubon described the ongoing project of accessibility they have committed to. From accessible trails to accessible programming the Audubon is creating a destination that is based on equity and inclusion. The Audubon is part of Fairfield County Accessibility for All CT and has invested in training and designating an Accessibility Coordinator. The Audubon encourages committee members to visit the website.

<https://accessibilityforallct.org/>  
<https://greenwich.audubon.org/accessibility>

**Policy:** Ben Branyan, Town Administrator, shared the draft of the new ToG Accessibility Compliance and Best Practice Policy. The policy serves to let Town Departments know the ToG is compliant with the Federal ADA statutes, outlines the ToG Grievance procedure, enforces the non-discrimination and accessibility of ToG events, and offers Best Practice/Recommendations. Peter Tesei thanked the committee for all they have done to increase the awareness that Greenwich is a diverse inclusive town.

**Old Business:** Beach Mat. There was discussion concerning usage of floating wheelchairs. Chief Heavey recommended a policy requiring life vests. Joe Dowling said he would put together a subcommittee to work on this for next year's beach season.

Joe Dowling brought up the need to cut the grass over the green mat at Laughlin Park tennis court. Commissioner Siciliano said they were exploring the best way to cut the grass without damaging the mat.

**New Business:** The Committee will hold two special meetings in September/October, one with the Republican candidates for Selectman and one with the Democratic candidate for Selectman. Format will

be a presentation by the candidates on how they will serve all citizens of the ToG and how to improve inclusion.

The ToG DPW and the committee are working with the USDOJ regarding Eversource's placement of power poles in the middle of sidewalks.

The committee will be meeting with the building managers for WestMed 644 W Putnam regarding heavy entrance doors

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am

**Next Meetings:**

Special Meeting with Republican Candidates, Monday September 16 at 11:30am in the Cone Room

Special Meeting with Democratic Candidates, Monday October 7 at 1:30pm in the Cone Room

Committee Meeting, Monday December 16 at 9:15am

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