



City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities
155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023 - 6:30pm
Meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Please note: John Gentile will setup a ZOOM meeting.

Attendance: John Gentile (Chairman), John Neumuller, Rose Marie Bouclier, Fran Ryan, Jeff Doyle

Excused: Frank Reed, Quentin Hughes

Guests: Isabel Domber,

- John Gentile: Welcome & Introduction: (6:38 PM & Feb, 14, 2023)
- Review and Acceptance: Dec. 13, 2023 Minutes, John N. – Motion, Fran R. 2nd, All -Yes
- Phone Log – Received 1 Call No Message Left – Feb. 6, 2023, 1 PM
- Old Business, Announcements, Updates:
 - 1) Commissioners Updates – No new Updates
 - 2) Update on COVID restrictions – We will continue to hold Zoom meetings
 - 3) Tax Assessment Benefit – Isabel was able to get the assessment benefit but will not go into effect until Oct. 2023.
- Seeking One Regular & Three alternates: No interest to date of meeting
- Social media report: **Jeff Doyle to Report** – Doing very well we are over 825 followers, Jeff suggested that the Commissioners send their resume and he will post it on the Social Media page. We also have organizations following as well ie. Epilisy Foudation, Alzhimers Foundation etc.
Facebook Facebook.com/DanburyC4PWD Likes: 222 Follows: 229 (as of 6/9/2020) **Twitter**
Twitter.com/DanburyC4PWD 353 followers (as of 6/9/2020)
- Handicap Parking Update – John N. Met with Police Chief Riddenhour, Deputy Chief Sturdevant and traffic Sargent DeRocca, due to the new privacy laws they suggested that we call the police dept 797-4611, Jeff responded that he tried that in the past but the police dept. blew him off. He also stated that he believes that when in public space you can take a picture of what ever you want. John N said be very careful with that as you may open yourself up to a major law suit, he also stated we should be very careful as you may also encounter a violent person that could cause you harm. Isabel raised a concern about privacy and stated that she recently renewed her handicap parking placard and they require a signature we all suggested she not sign it or put an X on it. John G made a point that part of the cause to the controversy of Handicap parking is there are not enough parking spaces, John G believes the law should be changed to allow more Handicap spaces in bout public and private property and would go a long way to alleviate the problem.
- On Demand Transportation:
 - o Kept as an open item
- New Business: Received an email from Jonathan Alteri a Danbury Resident, stating that “the Danbury Library does not include Minatare Horses as Service Animals?” As I investigated I found that he is an individual who is deaf and owns a Miniature Horse as a Service Animal and he reviewed the Library’s policy on service animals and found that it does not include miniature horses? The law was recently updated (2020) to include miniature

horses as service animals and the Library's policy was not updated. I informed Director Katie Person that the policy needs to be updated and we both informed Les Pinter, Danbury Corporation Council, about what took place and they would work to update the policy to comply with the Law.

- **Open Discussion:** Fran R, raised the issue of how people who stutter has become a political issue concern on how, even people with disAbilities will deride those who stutter. Jeff replied that he keeps thing like on the media page and does not engage in controversy.
Jeff, is trying to address an issue of getting food stamps, John N suggested that he call Haley at Julie Kushner office 860-240-0509.
Rose Marie stated that we have an extreme high number of elementary school students with special needs and the school system may not be able to accommodate their needs.
John G stated a concern over the City considering a zoning compliance change for the new Career Academy because it doesn't meet the zoning requirement of a school an in order to bring it up to school compliance it would cost quite a bit of money.
The PACT Act was updated – to include Viet Nam era veterans who have been exposed to chemicals during their deployment.
Jeff – Point of information, disAbility Expo coming to New Jersey in April. Fran asked Jeff to post in on he Social Media webpage.
Motion to Adjourn John N Fran R 2nd All Yes, 7:42 PM

We work to put the "A" in ability - the Commission has many goals including focusing on the Abilities of those with disAbilities. The Commission was established to advise the Mayor and the Common Council of the needs of persons with disAbilities within the community with relation to housing, economics, employment, transportation, health, recreation and other matters. The Commission was formed by Sec. 2-56.13 of the City of Danbury Code of Ordinances. The City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at Danbury City Hall, at 6:30pm. We do not meet in July and August.