



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

**Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2013 - 6:30pm**

*in attendance:* John Gentile (Chairman), Annie Dance, John Neumuller, Frances Ryan

*absent:* Rose Marie Bouciler, Paul Kachevsky, Joanne LaPorta, William Lewis, Bobby Perez, Frank Reed, Chad Sinanian

*guest:* John Michael Gentile

- Welcome & Introduction: John Gentile
  - Review & Accept Minutes: November 12, 2013 (keep on agenda for January)
  - Phone Log: John Gentile
  - November - National Diabetes Awareness Month and Thursday 11/14 is World Diabetes Day
    - Received a Call from WLAD looking for an interview
    - Debbie Hanley - John called her back - they were looking to interview someone
    - John will leave his email address on voicemail in case someone has to get in touch right away
  - E-newsletter - Annie Dance  
Web Site Funding for newsletter – Annie Dance
    - Mailchimp - \$63.75/month - reimbursement approved, waiting to hear from PJ Prunty in Mayor's office
  - November emails:
    - 11/28/2013 - [We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving as we celebrate Family Health History Day & National Caregivers Month](#)
    - 11/20/2013 - [Join Us in Supporting the DisAbility Treaty - Watch Senate Hearing Live Tomorrow](#)
    - 11/13/2013 - [Join us in Observing National Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day](#)
- (see addendum for organizations who opened our latest email)
- December email topic - disability.gov topics and Happy Holidays
  - Social media report as of 12/10/13
    - Facebook: currently 19 likes (same as last month)
    - Twitter: currently 87 followers (up from 55 last month)
  - 2013 -2014 Recognition Award
    - Housatonic Area Rapid Transportation (HART) - Reached out to HART
    - we will probably give award in April
    - Eric Bergstrasser (CEO) - John will call him to set up next steps

- On Demand Transportation: (kept as an open item)
  - Letter to the Mayor
  - taxi service is too expensive currently, and not wheelchair accessible
    - Frank Reed will look into possible grant state funding with HART
    - Possibly present at CT Council on Developmental Disabilities council meeting in January
    - Danbury On Demand Transportation Study (July 2011) with CCDD and HARTransit
    - accessible vehicles are in bigger fleets (New Haven, Hartford, etc.) that run past midnight - ideally Danbury would have it too
- Danbury Buddy Ball Program: Update - Frank Reed
  - Frank to follow-up with contact there
  - will keep as an open item on agenda for future meetings
- March of Dimes walk on May 4 - Frank Reed will be the Ambassador for the event
  - will keep as open item on the agenda and promote the event closer to the date
- Stop & Shop lack of lights
  - Newtown Road location does not have lights on in frozen food and refrigerated food sections after 9pm and before 9am
  - John Gentile had conversation with Manager, it's a Stop & Shop corporate policy, the manager said he would pass along the Commission's concerns
- Annie recently messaged Stop & Shop on their facebook page to discuss the lack of lighting. See their response below.

**Stop & Shop** Annie, thank you for reaching out to us here. We are sorry you are finding it to dark when you are shopping. All of our stores are reducing our use of non-essential lighting during non-peak hours in an effort to lessen our carbon footprint impact on the environment. We continue to work toward a balance of providing the right amount of light needed in our stores for our customers and associates with our energy-efficiency effort. While we care about the environment, we also care about your shopping experience and it should still be light enough to shop. We will share your concern about insufficient lighting with our store management team for their follow up. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to give us a call at 1 [800-767-7772](tel:800-767-7772), option 3, option 6.  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [October 14 at 12:00pm](#)

- Next steps for the Commission: John Gentile
  - Report back on conversation with Diane Rosemark (City Corp. Counsel)
  - CT State CHRO (Connecticut Human Rights Organization)
    - they launch complaint with EEOC
- Open Discussion
- Next Meeting: January 14, 2013

## addendum

people from over 70 organizations opened our latest email on 11/28/2013 - [We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving as we celebrate Family Health History Day & National Caregivers Month](#)

### Organization

ADA Coalition of CT  
Albany Times Union  
Arizona State University  
Arizona State University School of Social Work  
Ashfield Healthcare  
Bloomberg.com  
Bridgeport Mayor  
City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities  
City of Danbury Finance Department  
City of Danbury Fire Department  
City of Danbury Health and Human Services Department  
City of Danbury Police Department  
City of Danbury Professional Firefighters Union Local 801  
City of Danbury Mayor's Office  
Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
CONNECTICUT PARENT ADVOCACY CENTER (CPAC)  
Connecticut Post  
CT Commission On Human Rights And Opportunities  
CT Dept of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
CT Dept of Public Health  
CT Dept of Social Services  
CT Dept of Labor  
CT Insurance Dept.  
CT Legislative Management  
CT State Dept Of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
CT State Office of Consumer Counsel  
Cuyler News Service  
Danbury Children First, Inc.  
Danbury City Council  
Danbury Hospital  
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
FAP-Friends of Autistic People  
Gannett News Service  
Hartford Courant  
Hartford Courant's Capitol Watch  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Health Resources in Action  
Indoor Environments Division  
Institute for Clinical and Economic Review  
LADIES' HOME JOURNAL  
Los Angeles Times  
MA Department of Public Health  
MA Dept. of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health  
Maine DHHS, 11 SHS  
Meridian Health Plan  
Millerton News  
National Diabetes Education Program  
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI  
New England ADA Center  
News 12 Westchester  
NH Asthma Control Program  
Norwalk Hospital  
Orange County Post  
Register Star  
Reuters  
Rhode Island Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
St Joseph hospital  
Stamford Hospital  
The Cornwall Local  
The Journal News  
The New York Times  
The Poughkeepsie Journal  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
UMass Med School  
University of Rochester  
Victor Pineda Foundation  
WBNR AM  
William W. Backus Hospital  
WPIX11

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Annie Dance*