

Town of Dedham Commission on Disability Meeting

February 22, 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- via Zoom

Members Present: John Tocci, Vicky Berg, Ellen Conway, Bernie Chirokas, Ken Cimeno, Diane Loud, Amy Doyle, Mary Nikolaides

John Tocci chaired the meeting.

Welcome of New Member:

Mary Nikolaides has joined the COD. Introduced ourselves and welcomed her.

Meeting Minutes:

Reviewed Oct and Dec 2020 minutes. They were approved pending corrections to December minutes (clarify deferral of Manor playground to Spring meeting; clarify tech issues reported by Town Moderator)

Treasurer's Report:

Ken Cimeno read the following into record:

December 1, 2020 72,674.60

December 31, 2020 72,685.13

We do not currently have a January 2021 statement

Scholarships:

Vicky reviewed the history of the COD scholarships and the current status. We currently have up to \$7500/year that we give out in scholarships:

- 3 Dedham High School seniors
- 1 High School senior from Dedham who attends a different school
- 1 adult/nontraditional student

After some discussion, we decided that we are not in a place to change the amount we commit to. 2020-2021 has been an unusual time and we have less revenue coming in. We will revisit another time.

Motherbrook Art Studio:

Motherbrook is trying to improve accessibility/install an elevator. Ken explained the current set up and the challenges and costs involved, which he recalled being ~250k. He will reach out to the Director Jean Webb Ford, to determine actual estimates and what they have raised so far.

Transportation/Providence Highway Corridor project:

COD needs an official designee for planning commission. John will attend the meeting in March and we will further discuss.

Snow Removal:

There are currently several issues with regards to snow removal around town:

- Getting merchants and homeowners to clear spaces so that people can safely traverse, especially given that there are no bylaws requiring such
- Elderly and disabled citizens may have difficulty clearing snow

Dan Driscoll has appointed a snow removal subcommittee in the hopes of proposing changes to Dedham's bylaws. The Dedham DPW clears sidewalks to the best of their ability, but need to prioritize due to limited resources.

There is an organization called Snow Angels, where volunteers perform snow shoveling/clearing (e.g., teens doing it for community service hours) but this requires insurance, equipment and oversight.

Vacancy:

John continues to liaise with Nancy Baker regarding our vacancies. She sent John a draft but hasn't posted the vacancy yet.

New Business:

Follow up on the idea to provide lights for people dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder. AMy will research different types and prices.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Loud