

Town of West Hartford
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Monday, March 10, 2025, 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/MHFDaT0jmc8?si=E3Lv-0HmHSvC5j5m>

MINUTES (CORRECTED)

Commission Members Present: Tara McNeil (Chair), Erin Conneely, Christine Hayden, Christopher Holley, Kimberly Jacobsen, Joseph Kolczynski, Brittany Koziara, Jason Mirsky, Elisa Neira, Jennifer Searls

Town Liaison Present: Suzanne Oslander

Commission Members Not in Attendance: Amy Messinger

Guest(s) Present:

- Meghan Dufresne, Project Manager, Institute for Human Centered Design
- David West, Project Manager, Institute for Human Centered Design

Opening:

Co-Chair Tara McNeil called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Tara McNeil introduced Meghan Dufresne and David West as guest speakers for the meeting.

Presentation:

Meghan Dufresne and David West are project managers with the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD). IHCD has been retained by the Town of West Hartford to update the town's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. IHCD will be assessing Town facilities, programs, and services to ensure compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Additionally, they will develop recommendations and a Transition Plan to bring any non-compliant facilities, programs, and services up to ADA compliance.

After the presentation, the commission engaged in a discussion around how best to support the efforts of the Town and its consultants. Suggestions were made by commission members on additional community groups to engage in the survey developed by IHCD, additional mechanisms for engaging community members in the survey process, and what the role of the commission could be in furthering those efforts.

Erin Conneely made a motion to authorize Tara McNeil to send a letter to the Town and its consultants highlighting a series of recommendations made by the committee to target outreach and engage more members of the community in the survey that was sent to commission members. Joseph Kolczynski seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.

Kimberly Jacobson made a motion to recommend that Tara McNeil and Suzanne Oslander work to identify potential dates for a community listening session. Ideally, the listening session would take place before the next commission meeting, would be both virtual and in-person, and would allow Town citizens to comment

on the questions identified in the survey to ensure more representation and feedback on the ADA Self-Evaluation survey. Tara McNeil seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were approved, two commission members abstained.

Town Staff Report: Suzanne Oslander shared information about a Fellowship sponsored by the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative. Residents of West Hartford are invited to apply to join the Community Leaders Fellowship. Fellows will co-create a community poster campaign that celebrates every age and every ability in their town. Applications are due by March 16. More information and the fellowship application can be found at: <https://ctagewellcollaborative.org/community-leaders-fellowship/>.

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

Election of Vice Chair: Due to the late hour, this agenda item was tabled until the May meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at the Elmwood Community Center Auditorium at 7:00 pm.