



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY Wilbraham, Massachusetts

Town Hall
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 20, 2021

Location of Meeting: Virtual

Members in Attendance: Marylou Fabbo, Maureen James, Paula Euber, Deborah Cook

Town Staff in Attendance:
Jered Sasen, Veteran's Agent

Guests:
Anthony Zaremba and Christine Scott – Transitional Program, HWRSD

Chairperson Marylou Fabbo called the meeting to order at 4:32.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of minutes from 3/25/21.

Maureen James motioned to approve the minutes from 3/25/21. It was seconded by Jared Sasen. All in favor.

Discussion with guests Christine Scott and Anthony Zaremba regarding needs of Transition Program:

Background on program:

Serve 18-21-year-old students - finished HS but need further skill development

2 classes

Tier I class- focus on functional skills, ADL, cooking, rec and leisure skills, following directions, life skills

5 students

Tier II class-

7 students

5 attend a class at HCC with an educational coach; participate in community events; shopping, budgeting, planning; focus on independence; also work on skills through cooking program; travel training - public transportation

Questions to Tony and Christine

Jered - what is the criteria for the program?

Christine - her students graduate with a certificate, but not a diploma; need further skill development

Tony - all students are on IEP; focus on job shadowing; students are on autism spectrum; some of his students have HS diplomas

Jered - do you focus on employment with your students?

Tony - yes; have met with MA rehab; have been doing job exploration; difficult process with COVID-19; students can leave program if they find a job they like

Christine - her program focuses more on community exposure

Jered - do you have difficulty with transportation?

Tony - yes; may be difficult in fall when some students are going to HCC and others are not; they have 1 van for the program

Christine - program has grown from 5 students to 13 this year

Maureen - do students have costs associated with the program?

Christine - no; HWRSD pays for program and supplies; they have budget for cooking

Tony - school district pays for HCC and other costs

Jered - do all of the students come from Minnechaug?

Christine - yes, but they are looking to expand the program and offer it to students from other districts

Jered - are you looking for an industrial dishwasher or a home dishwasher?

Christine - a home dishwasher

Discussion of request:

Maureen - we need to solidify the process for disbursing funds in order to meet the needs of as many citizens as possible

Jered - will contact the manager of Home Depot about either donating or a discount on a dishwasher

Maureen - will follow up with Tony and Christine to determine they have the proper hook-up, etc. so they will have dishwasher for fall.

Discussion of COD membership and leadership:

Maureen agreed to assume leadership of COD in summer of 2021. She suggested Deb serve as Vice President.

We will discuss and vote at next meeting.

Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:

Discussion centered on setting a dollar limit for grants and the application process.

We agreed that the next meeting would be good to finalize the process and amount.

The Application form may need to be vetted by town leadership for approval.

\$250 was suggested as a possible limit per grant given the money we currently have.

MaryLou thought the application form should be as simple as possible and everyone agreed.

Maureen was working on an application form in early 2020 and will send a draft of that form with the minutes so we can vote on it at the next meeting

Next Public Meeting (By Remote Means):

Proposed meetings: 6/17 at 4:30pm

Marylou will work to reserve the dates.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Maureen. Seconded by Jared. All in Favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deborah Cook.

Approved by vote 10/7/2021

Posted by Maureen James 11/15/2021