

**Sharon Commission on Disabilities  
Minutes, October 22, 2014**

Please excuse anything I might have left out, as I was Paul's reader and trying to make notes at the same time. ( and, I can't ride a bike and chew gum at the same time!)

Present: Paul Remy, Susan Myerson, Jim Waters, Faye Berzon, Lois Diamond.

Geila Aronson, Jana Katz, Sandy Biber were unable to attend

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm. Minutes from September 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

We welcomed, Peter Melvin, Paul's neighbor, who Paul invited to join our Commission. He gave us a brief bio...he grew up "a delightful little peninsula called Squantum", spent time in the Navy, was an engineer working for IBM...50 years ago when computers were just beginning, Digital Equipment, and then went on his own. He is now the Director of the Sharon Housing Authority. He has 3 sons...(and, since I started taking minutes after his bio, I hope I got this right). Peter will be a great addition to our Commission.

**Treasurer's Report:** Geila was not at the meeting.

Paul reported that his electronic check donation to the Commission was returned. He had written it to the Town of Sharon and in the memo put Att: COD. Town accountant, Cindy Doherty told him that maybe the collector didn't know what Att: COD meant. In the future, write payable to the Town of Sharon Disabilities Commission, on memo put donation.

**Ward's Berry Farm...** Paul and Val with check out the handicapped parking situation this week.

**Train Station now accessible!!!:** Paul still waiting to hear from the Board of Selectmen's office regarding the MBTA Director's decision about dedicating the accessible platform to Sid and the plaque's placement. Paul Rosenthal and his family want to read the dedication before the unveiling ceremony. Susan will contact Ellie, Sid's widow, to see if she wants to add anything to the dedication that will be read.

**Mural/T-Shirt project:** The 250 Anniversary committee gave its approval for us to create T-shirts and sell them at certain events, using the funds for a project of our choice. The committee was not interested in using a portion of the funds to subsidize Sharon residents on low-fixed incomes to attend the Anniversary Ball in June.

Jana's friends who are art illustrators are interested in designing the T-shirt. She also contacted her friend at Art for Humanity, and another friend who has a T-shirt business. Rina Hoffman, co-director at the Binah School, said her students would love to be involved. Muralist Tova Spector sent some images and suggestions, including that we may need a professional photographer to get the right resolution for printing. We need to find out more about the photography aspect. We talked about ideas for the printing under the illustration on shirt. These are the things we want to include: Sharon 250 Anniversary logo, (need permission to use logo).

In support of the Sharon Commission on Disability  
Design by Bimah School

Susan said we need to find out if it is more expensive to print front and back.

Tova had said: Foundation recognition isn't usually required on a shirt, in my experience it is for flyers, websites, etc. Her suggestion here would be to include the recognition in any advertising/signage for the selling the shirt, not necessarily printed on the shirt itself, but I will defer to Rina.

Paul said: The Commission should establish a T-shirt sub-committee. Money for this project can't come from the 250 Anniversary Committee, so the Commission will have to seek funding in addition to helping to design the shirt. Jana told me that shirts cost \$6 - \$8. One possibility is the Commission initially purchase 25 shirts and sell them for \$10 - \$15. David Clifton told me we might be able to sell them at the Square Jam next summer, but we need to get permission from them Square Jam organizers.

**Town Administrator:** Mr. Fred Turkington was not able to attend this meeting. Paul's suggestion is that he and Jana meet with him within the next couple of weeks, to fill him in what the Commission has been doing and its plans for next year. Then the Commission could invite Mr. Turkington to a meeting early next year. We all agreed.

**Conflict of Interest:** Paul wrote the Town Clerk, Marline Chused, regarding Commissioners soliciting pledges for fundraisers. She believes this Conflict of Interest policy also applies to non-paid local/state employees including Commissioners, and forwarded my message to Marisa Donelan at the State Ethics Commission. She stated: “Generally speaking, the Conflict of Interest Law restricts public employees from using public resources, including their public titles, to solicit donations for non-governmental purposes. These principles are explained in a recent Commission opinion, at this link: [EC-COI-12-1](#). The Conflict of Interest Law also restricts public employees from seeking donations or other types of private transactions from persons under their official authority, or with whom they have official dealings, as explained in: [Advisory 14-1](#).’

Lois’s husband, a lawyer, looked this over...and he and Jim agreed that we should check with the Ethics Committee to get the answer. Jim will do this.

**Next year’s goals:** Paul thinks it would be a good idea for the Sharon Awareness Day to focus on celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Paul would like the Commission to establish a sub-committee to organize and plan the Awareness Day for next October...and invite other commissions from surrounding communities. Some organizations he invited in the past were SHARE, Easter Seals, Perkins School. We will also invite vendors with products that would benefit the handicapped population.

**Chairlift for Town Hall**...all agreed that the chairlift for town hall isn’t wide enough. Wasn’t wide enough for Paul’s chair! **We need an elevator.** Lois expressed that she wouldn’t feel safe on the chairlift they recommend. We saw pictures. The commission concluded that an elevator is needed in Town Hall, because a chairlift would not be large enough for wheelchair/scooter users.

Following Paul’s recommendation, we all agreed to upgrade our doteasy.com software to the premium plan Wordpress for our website. It is an easier program with many nice features and Paul wants to incorporate a blog...easier with Wordpress. It is only about \$20 more annually. To be paid with our commission budget. We all agreed.

Lois wants to see if she can join meetings on skype when she is in Florida she leaves next Tuesday. Peter will ask Norma if we can and let Lois know.

**Next meeting**, because of Thanksgiving will be a week early on Nov. 19, the third Wednesday in November. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 ish.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Myerson