

Town of East Haven, CT
American Disability Act Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2013
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AMENDED

Members Present:

Vice-Chairman Kerry Martens
Commissioner Michael Tufano
Commissioner Brian Savo
Commissioner Joseph Vellali
Commissioner Ann DeSorbo

Staff Present:

Arthur L. DeSorbo

Public Present:

Peter Cianelli
Wendy Bellmore

Members Absent:

Commissioner Hoff

Vice-Chairman Martens called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Roll was called and a quorum was present. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

A letter from the former clerk, Kristen Vineyard, was read to the commission. Mr. DeSorbo then explained why the change of clerk was requested by the Chairman.

Wendy Bellmore and Peter Cianelli then spoke to the Commission regarding the East Haven Food Pantry. They both thanked the commission for allowing them time to speak. They discussed with the commission the fact that the Food Pantry has been in existence since 1986 at the Christ & Epiphany Church. There will be a new East Haven Soup Kitchen there as well, effective by the fall. However, there is no handicapped access except for a stair glide machine that is very old and in disrepair. Discussion was held with regard to possible solutions such as moving the handicapped access to the southern side of the parking area which is a larger area to accommodate vans. There would need to be changes for the ramping to the door. Commissioner DeSorbo asked if they had looked into a lift, to which they replied yes, but the cost could be upward in the amount of \$100,000-\$200,000 for an elevator and \$18,000-\$20,000 for a stairglide per stairwell. They would like to run fundraisers and stated that Art DeSorbo

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and Mayor Maturo have been wonderful with their ideas and getting public works involved as well. Mr. DeSorbo stated that yes there are funds that have been bonded but money is still available. He is in the process of getting a wheelchair for the beach and will see if they can put together a project and get an architect for the ADA to give a plan to. Commissioner DeSorbo discussed grants however Ms. Bellmore stated they are minimally available to religious institutions. It is very difficult to access resources and they are trying to help make services available to residents. Mr. DeSorbo said that they would be in touch with Ms. Bellmore and Mr. Cianelli. Commissioner DeSorbo asked if the Food Pantry rented the space from the church and Ms. Bellmore stated yes. Commissioner DeSorbo said that makes a huge difference seeing the y is a 501C3 organization. She will look into some grants in Hartford because more are available than there were before now that they know w it's a 501C3.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner DeSorbo made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the January 17th Meeting and Commissioner Vellali seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Reorganization

Chairman Hoff has resigned as Chairman so the Commission needs to reorganize. Commissioner DeSorbo made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Brian Savo as Chairman. Commissioner Vellali seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Vice-Chair Kerry Martens would remain as Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner DeSorbo made a **MOTION** to name Linda LaLuna as clerk of the commission. Commissioner Vellali seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

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There being no other business to come before the agency, a **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 by Commissioner DeSorbo and seconded by Commissioner Vellali. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk