

AGE FRIENDLY & DISABILITY COMMISSION

Meeting 5	Date: March 9 th , 2023	
Location: Hitchcock	Start: 11:02am	End: 12:48pm
Members Present: 4/6	Members in Absentia: Jim Adams, Chris H	
<u>Meeting Minutes:</u>		
-Meeting called to order at 11:02		
-Regrouping after long absence due to illnesses within the commission		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Going through all past business• Specifically recapped the December Meeting• Meeting 5 minutes approved		
-Talking about where to hold our meetings going forward:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best option would be the common room of Connie's building• Understand that the common room is technically not a town-sanctioned building; however, it is the only truly accessible option.• Willing to communicate with Board of Selectmen in order to make this work.		
-We need to make sure that meeting minutes get uploaded to Google Doc & website		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chelsea uploads Google Doc• Jolene prints them, signs them, uploads to website		
-Reorganization of board:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris has to step away from co-chair due to outside work commitments• Make decision for next meeting as to whether we elect a new co-chair or have one (Jolene)		
-Town Clerk requests OML updates ASAP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jolene will send commission members the required materials via email.• Link to OML laws on Brimfield's website is an incomplete document w/o an acknowledgement page• From the link Jolene sent, print the acknowledgement page, sign, and drop off to Deb in the annex (Someone needs to bring Connie's, since the annex is inaccessible; will do a group collect/drop-off)		
-Upcoming Projects:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focuses for the commission for 2023• Should the Library remain a primary focus? All agree yes• General consensus is Library remains the main focus, while also taking on a couple *smaller* projects, such as the benches on the common being put back correctly & sidewalks• We are aware that the primary issue will be money• In terms of sidewalks, reconnect with Mike Doyle & Zach L. for Smart Streets program		
-Gloria once again asks, "how can we legally fundraise for our commission?"		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jolene believes the main way is to have an initiative signed by BoS, with a clear plan of what money would be used for• Research needs to be done on if we can fundraise as a commission, rather than grants or going through town with things such as taxes or reallocation of funds• Can research; look on Massachusetts website, talk to Mike Doyle, Paul McCarthy, Eva Pittsinger and/or Senator Fattman for more understanding and connections		
-Look into having a discussion with Doyle & McCarthy on their podcast to get the word out about our commission, to gain support (will look into the specifics of ethics)		
-Discussed the need to educate the town on the commissions that exist; help residents understand how the town works, get to know the inner workings of their town, get involved		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Podcast/interview episode• Commission fair		

- Booths at another existing fairs
- Open event, much like a town forum but for commissions
- Talk to Adams & Soto
- Gloria will take the lead, will tap others in as needed

-PVPC survey

- Survey is specifically for Senior Citizens
- Goal is to get a 10% response rate of Brimfield elderly residents
- Becky (PVPC) is willing to help get responses, such as providing funds or materials to mail in surveys
- Promote survey via online, hard copies at the senior center, local town venues
- Becky will start printing copies March 15th; will be printed as an 8 page booklet, local communities can provide their own cover page.
- Survey due date is April 28th
- Becky suggested holding a few 'listening sessions' for the community in April; talk to Eva to plan as well as distributing the survey; then promote on FB, 'Brimfield Matters', email blast, signs/bulletin boards, our webpage
- Overall, will touch base with Becky for specific details such as obtaining the booklets
- Should we have a cover letter? Agreed that if we did, it would need to be incredibly basic, with contact information
- Wondering if it's possible to list Senior Center as a number to call with questions, then have the questions directly emailed to us. This is in an effort to be as accessible as possible, as some older residents do not have access to email.
- Going to finalize details with Eva & Becky
- Jolene will also forward PVPC meeting emails to the whole commission
- We will have access to the information from the survey

-Will follow up with Chris on the library information he has gather since our last meeting

-Next meeting April 6th, Colonial Park Common Room

-Meeting called to adjourn: 12:48pm