

TOWN OF YARMOUTH
DISABILITY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 19, 2021 2:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dave Botting called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., noting that the Host was not present, and therefore the meeting would not be able to be recorded. He took a survey of those present and no one was authorized for the task.

In the absence of Pat Armstrong, Dave asked Dianne Kane, Director of COA, to read the OPEN LAW for Public Meetings before proceeding.

ROLL CALL:

Members present who responded were as follows: Dave Botting, Chair, Gail Charette, Vice Chair, Evelyn Beal, Clerk, Drew Krauss, and Jody Warner. It was noted that Sharon Ladley though expected was not present

STAFF: Pat Armstrong, Director of Community Services
Dianne Kane, Director of COA
Angela Hurwitz, Website Consultant

GUESTS: Casey & Megan Sheehan

Dave continued at this time recognizing with a few comments our invited guests, Casey and Megan Sheehan. He asked our Vice Chair, Gail Charette to welcome and introduce them.

Gail graciously did so mentioning that Casey was a student at Merrimack College, and with her sister, Megan, were interested in developing a children's book to help educate other children and parents on ways to interact and relate to those with intellectual disabilities.

Casey gave us a "Picture Book Outline" for a story. A very thoughtful story had been composed about a young withdrawn boy named Blake who was noticed by his classmate, Nora. She questioned her parents and teacher on how to include him in their activities. The story continued with her efforts in this regard. Very insightful and charming, appropriate for Pre-K through Grade 3.

Dave commented that she "had him as his granddaughter's name is Nora". A discussion period with a majority of questions, comments, and suggestions ensued. On further conversation, Dave thought the girls were going to publish the book. Gail interjected immediately and said that our Commission was going to do that part. The girls part was to create a children's book that we would publish and promote.

Dave asked the group our thoughts and if we supported the idea of a children's book. Did we want to proceed with a children's book project? Gail so moved and it was seconded by Drew. Roll Call. Affirmative response by all.

A comment regarding costs was summarily overthrown with statements of how easily it could be funded. The immediate reaction was overwhelming support for the project! Angela Hurwitz articulated tremendous support and factual information on ways we could help facilitate the progress of the book.

Jody Warner was also in favor and stated that his wife worked with Cape Cod Collaborative that might be a contact. He also mentioned that he could assist in many ways as he has been in the book publishing business for over 20 years.

Drew's comments were also helpful and supportive.

At this point, Dave said he would like to hear a proposal from the group.

Evelyn Beal formulated a proposal in favor and support of publishing and promoting the book as a project to be undertaken by the Disability Commission.

Drew Krause seconded. An Individual Roll Call was undertaken with all members present responding in the affirmative. So moved.

Dave noted that Pat Armstrong, a late arrival, had been silent on the matter and asked for her input. She apologized for her late arrival, and then enthusiastically endorsed it. She enlightened us to how many resources are available in Yarmouth that could easily be accessed among them existing book clubs, local authors, as well as our Libraries. Another exciting idea for promotion would be to place books in stores that had Cape Cod themes, like Brewster General Store, as tourists like to take home a reminder of their visit.

Dave then focused on the next steps which would be tracking of the project. Gail volunteered to keep in touch with the girls on their progress noting that they would not have any deadline due to school and work. Gail will be a Liaison between the girls and our committee. Thank you, Gail.

Dave thanked Casey and Megan for their inspiring presentation, and said that they were free to log out of the meeting if they so chose. Everyone murmured a goodbye and thanks.

MEETING RESUMED:

Dave thanked Gail for her submission on our behalf for the excerpt in the "MILESTONE". It was very well done. Gail acknowledged.

Dave noted that before we vote on the MINUTES, we need to change the date to 2021. So noted. Jody made the motion to accept Minutes as changed and Drew seconded. All members were polled and in agreement. So Carried.

As we are now out of time, Dave suggested that we move the rest of business to our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 12, 2021. 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn made by Jody and seconded by Drew at 3:05 p.m.
Individual Roll Call, all said "Aye". So Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Beal, Clerk