

# METUCHEN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES from April 22, 2020

Meeting held Remotely

Borough Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

### Present:

Members: Jennifer Asprocolas (Committee Chair),  
Michael Geschlecht, Rena Kallman, Dave Kallman, Wesley Brooks, Robin Brown, Gail Zelle, Krissy Cantin Garside, Pat Kay Audra Sbarra (Co-Chair),

Absent: Wendy Eaton

Public in attendance: N/A

Old Business:

New Business:

### **Proposed Project**

- Jen, Audra and Sheri spoke about an outreach project in terms of bringing the committees experiences together.
- The committee was asked to survey which areas they are strongest in to help.
- Rena suggested the Alliance Center for Independence would be a good resource to start with. They have lots of resources for people with disabilities and can be reached at (732)738-4388.

- Krissy suggested different adaptive programs for students with disabilities to increase both volunteering opportunities and awareness. She also mentioned that the Colts Neck Reformed Church holds a Joyful Noise Service that helps those with sensory and learning disabilities attend. They are given the chance to run around prior and there are different corners of the church have sensory kits to help with attention deficit.
- She also mentioned that connecting through social media is also helpful.
- Pat also will send a list of additional resources from the Commission for the Blind.
- Mike also asked how awareness of the project would be increased to those without computers. Fliers will be posted around town and in the Metuchen Mirror and Criterion Sentinel as well as providing computer access to those who need it when details are finalized in the future to help accommodate.
- Project could also consist of a list of resources online along with the committee number to reach out if needed.
- Robin noted that talking to people with young ones with special needs face a challenge when dealing with doctors and that one disability can vary greatly from degree and person to person. Aging with a disability is an important topic to consider as well.
- Concern was noted that the project will take a significant amount of time to counsel people with these and other issues as well as where the boundaries lay in terms of assisting.
- Jen noted that it would most likely be a voluntary basis in terms of reaching out, time frame, flow of information, borough approval, commitments etc.
- Peer to peer support and places of referral are key for this project.
- The project would likely be done through a published google phone number, but must be approved by the borough before the next steps can be taken.

Next Meeting is Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM either at borough hall or on zoom depending on the current situation