

METUCHEN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES from December 2nd, 2020

Borough Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

Present:

Members:

Michael Geschlecht, Rena Kallman, Dave Kallman, Wesley Brooks, Robin Brown, Pat Kay Audra Sbarra (Chair),

.

Absent: Krissy Cantin Garside, Jennifer Asprocolas, Gail Zelley

Public in attendance:

Old Business: None

New Business:

Ally Conversation from November 18th with HRC

- Ally presentation with the HRC was a success and very direct with information.
- Sheri noted that the segment on allyship presented by Rena was very well done and she even learned many additional points on the topic.
- Pat noted it was difficult to access some of the slides in the presentation in terms of visual accessibility and a better layout could be considered for next time. The slides were well described overall.

- Rena suggested an improvement would be to have several action items to do with HRC and the committee as a whole with the presentation being a springboard.

Plans for 2021: Additional conversations with the Metuchen Community

- Mike noted that the overall goal is to make the committee accessible to all of the town to increase awareness.
- The first thing to do would be to see what the overall needs in the town are and perhaps reach out to some other state groups that serve people with disabilities to understand this issue further.
- In terms of getting the committee out there, an idea would be to do one presentation a month on different disabilities to talk to different people around town in a conversation format. This can range from covering different disabilities to educating others on the special talents those with special needs have and employment with disabilities to name a few.
- Sheri noted it may be best to begin presentations with specific disabilities and then move on to the bigger issues.
- It would also be beneficial to invite members of the Metuchen Police and Senior Center to the presentation.
- The overall template would be what people are looking for with living in the community and begin with those members in the group who have those disabilities share stories and then open it to the public.
- The title would be “Living with... in Metuchen”.
- A poster downtown may also be used to advertise the presentations in addition to Facebook and the borough website when all is finalized to further increase awareness.

Miscellaneous

- Rena noted some state resources that could help narrow the gap and will explore this further with Robin and perhaps partner with the Metuchen Library as well. Audra will reach out to Marybeth in terms of what is available and training.
- Sheri noted it would be best to partner with the technology committee to further help with this issue.
- While the computer (Facebook and the Borough Site) is the main source of communication, concern was raised about how to increase awareness to those with no computer access due to difficulties accessing it or lack of availability.
- Robin noted that it would be best to discuss what to do when the lockdown is fully lifted in terms of meeting as a group both in person and/or virtually.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 8PM via zoom or at borough hall depending on COVID19 restrictions.

The rest of the 2021 (Fourth Wednesday of the month) is listed below and will be finalized and/or amended at the January meeting

Feb 24th

Mar 24th

Apr 28th

May 26th

Jun 23rd

No meeting in Jul or Aug

Sept 22nd

Oct 27th

November and December will be a combined meeting date TBA

