

METUCHEN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES from January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Borough Council Liaison: Sheri-Rose Rubin

Present:

Members:

Jennifer Asprocolas, Michael Geschlecht, Rena Kallman, Dave Kallman, Wesley Brooks (secretary), Robin Brown, Todd Pagel, Cathy Ostermueller ( Senior Center Liaison), Pat Kay Audra Sbarra (Chair),

Absent: None

Public in attendance: Howard Pagel

Old Business: None

Reorganization Meeting

**New Members**

- Committee welcomed new members Todd Pagel and Cathy Ostermueller.
- Cathy will serve as the liaison to the senior citizen center.

**Nominations**

Audra Sbarra was nominated as committee chair and Wesley Brooks was nominated as secretary

New Business:

**Borough Website**

- Committee addressed need to update borough website and reflect new members and positions of chair and secretary.

## Community Conversations

- **“2021 is the Year of Disability Awareness in Metuchen”**
- In honor of that the committee will host the following presentations (community conversations) as per the proposed list below likely every other month Topics and time frame are subject to change.

February 24<sup>th</sup> - Growing up with disabilities

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Aging and Disabilities

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Housing and Disabilities.

- The committee noted it would be best to do three presentations during the year.
- The presentations dates will be on the Wednesday evenings that the committee meetings at 7:30 PM every other month, February, April and June
- The purpose of these is to help increase awareness in town, get a feel for current issues in the community and propose some recommendations to help improve awareness.
- Rena noted that public interest is of importance and it may be best to narrow some of the topics.
- The presentations will be advertised on Facebook and shared via zoom/phone conference.

- Todd noted that while education is important, choice of topics is important and suggested to put a poll on Facebook to see which topics would be of interest. This would be done after the presentation.
- Cathy will reach out to Senior center as well.
- Pat noted that the presentations could be used as a point of experience to help both meet new people and what could be improved in town for people with special needs as well as slide accessibility for those who will join.
- Jen also thought it would also be a good idea to reach out to the library on a kid friendly book and have a discussion with them and have a separate one with adults.
- Jen noted that outreach is important for example Metuchen Schools and other members can be invited as well.
- Todd noted the housing presentation is also important to cover.

.

**Next meeting will be the conversation “Growing up with a Disability” on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM held virtually**