

**Foxborough Commission on Disability  
Minutes of March 20, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Sue Collins, Charlie Hobbs, Cindy Curran, Margaret Chaisson, Tony Williams

**Guest:** Patti Flowers, Sharon Wason, Town Planner

**Report from the Department of Transportation Hearing & Discussion of Sidewalk Plan - Sharon Wason** presented us with information on the **JARC** (Job Access Reverse Commute) feasibility study for van and/or bus service from Patriot Place to the Mansfield commuter rail stop via downtown Foxboro. This will help people with low incomes to and from their jobs and related activities. GATRA would be our likeliest partner. It was surprising how many people that live in town work here. The majority of people work at Invensys, Patriot Place, along Rte. 140 including Stop & Shop and the drug stores plus downtown and Chestnut Green. Seven percent of Foxboro residents do not own a vehicle. For Fiscal Year 2014, Foxboro's GATRA assessment is \$113,264 and we are only getting very limited GATRA service primarily to Norwood Hospital and Rte. 1. A firm will need to study the size of the vans or buses, number of handicapped vehicles, bike racks needed, stops, viability of running weekends and evenings and calculate various cost figures.

Sharon also got a **Community Transportation Technical Assistance Grant** for Foxboro. This will give Foxboro technical advice on local transportation concerns such as traffic operations and safety, bicycle and pedestrian access and safety, parking and handicapped parking and bus stop locations. All items that need to be corrected will be officially noted. There will be a **“walkability audit”** and an **“accessibility audit”**. The CTPS (Central Transportation Planning Staff) will be in charge of this endeavor. The Commission would like to be involved after our May 15 meeting but we need to act before June 30. Tony, Cindy and Margaret said they would be interested in participating with other people in the community. Sharon would like some students from Foxboro High School to take part. Roger Hill of the Department of Public Works was not able to come to our meeting today but of course he will be an integral part of the audits.

**Sidewalks – Sharon** said that instead of a Sidewalk Plan **Roger Hill will hire GIS** (Geographical Information System) to get a clear picture of any sidewalk issues. Sharon will write a Grant to offset this cost. Sharon needs to be commended for the Grant money she has generated to help Foxboro be a better community.

**Minutes – Sue Collins**

A motion was made by Cindy to accept the Minutes, second by Charlie. Motion passed.

**By-Laws Revision– Sue Collins** presented the By-Laws. Charlie made a motion to accept the By-Laws, second by Margaret. Once these By-Laws are accepted, Sue will be able to present a letter of recommendation for the applicants Patricia Flowers and Sherri Barrett.

### **Brochure**

**Margaret** got copies made by students in the **PAVE classroom under the guidance of their teacher Diane Gilanti at Foxboro High School**. Ellen Pillsbury helps get jobs for these students to help prepare them for future employment. We appreciate their efforts and expertise. When we receive the brochures, there will be copies available at Town Hall, the Boyden Library, Council on Aging and other public places.

**Cable Show Update – Tony** came up with several names for the cable show that is in the works. Some of the possibilities are: Access Now, Foxborough Community Connection, Community Inclusion, etc. He is hoping that everyone on the Commission will let him know their preference.

### **Massachusetts Office on Disability**

**Jeff Dougan, the Assistant Director for Community Service** will be our guest speaker for the Regional Meeting we have planned for **May 15 from 1-3 at the Public Safety Building**. Jeff is inviting all of the surrounding towns. Cindy, Margaret, Charlie will provide refreshments. It will be interesting to meet our neighbors and talk about our common issues, such as transportation problems.

**Communication Tips for People with Disabilities – Cindy** provided a sample and gave it to Sue. It had many tips on how to communicate better with people with disabilities to make everyone more comfortable. She will provide a PDF file so that we can put it on our **website**.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Cindy, second by Margaret; motion passed.

**Next Meeting: May 15, 2013, Wednesday at 1 PM at Public Safety Building.**