

Town of Cromwell
Committee to Support People with Disabilities
Regular Meeting, September 25, 2018
7:00 p.m. Town Hall Dining Room
Minutes

ATTENDANCE- Meagan Ribera, Lucuille Wrzos, Heidi Neumann-Venetianer, Linda Demetriades, Laurie Cantwell, Jeannine Marron, James Demetriades (Town Council Liason)
ABSENT- John Flanders

A. CALL TO ORDER- Heidi motioned to call the meeting to order; Lucuille seconded; no abstentions or opposed. Meeting called to order.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Heidi moved to approve the agenda; Lucuille seconded; no abstentions or opposed. Agenda approved.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Linda motioned to open the elections of officers and nominated Meagan Ribera as Chairperson. Jeannine seconded. Discussion opened.

Linda moved to call a vote for chairperson. No abstentions or oppositions, Meagan Ribera elected Chairperson.

Meagan moved to open the election for Vice Chairperson. Lucuille Wrzos volunteered to run for Vice Chairperson. No abstentions or opposition; Lucuille Wrzos elected as Vice Chairperson.

Linda moved to open the election for Secretary. Heidi Neumann-Venetianer volunteered. No abstentions or opposition; Heidi Neumann-Venetianer elected as Secretary.

D. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Councilman James Demetriades read a letter from Lynda Juda of 123 West St regarding The town handicapped van has a ramp that is not functional and the front step is too high for many Seniors to access. Mr. Demetriades will give the letter to Mrs Ribera who will contact Tony Salvator and Amy at the Senior Center for more information.

Mrs. Neumann-Venetianer made an announcement that the first Cromwell SEPTO (Special Education Parent Teacher Organization) will have their first meeting on Wednesday September 26 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at ECS

E. NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that committee meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at
7:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday October 2, 2018.

Discussion regarding supporting people with disabilities in Cromwell:
Ms Marron met with Scott the new Parks and Recreation director. She feels that

the town is working in a positive direction to include programs for children with special needs. Mrs. Cantwell stated that he has not responded to emails.

Discussion about creating a survey to send to the town about feelings and issues regarding activities and program for people of all ages with special needs. To be created in the future.

Mrs. Demetriades would like to know how funds are appropriated. Mr. Demetriades mentioned that if we see needs, we, as a committee, can make requests and recommendations to town departments.

Lengthy discussion was had in regards to the "Spread the Word to End the Word" pledge. Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) invited to Town Council meeting to discuss this initiative. Committee is unsettled about the use of the word 'retard' used in books approved in public school curriculum. Committee would like this brought up with the school board. Committee is also unhappy that Councilman Johnson feels comfortable using the word as a slur that insults people with special needs. The committee will write a letter to the editor of the Middletown Press to voice our concerns.

F. ADJOURN

Mrs. Ribera made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm. Mrs Cantwell seconded. Meeting was adjourned.