

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**  
**MINUTES**  
**Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities**  
**January 11, 2021**

**7:00PM Virtual Meeting Via WebX**

- Call meeting to order
  - Due to technical issues, the meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.
  - Members present: Joe Kolczynski, Mary Silverberg, Rebeca Hajosy, Erin Conneely, Ann Mione, Andrew Kellogg, Edward Shaham, Suzanne Oslander (Town ADA Coordinator – Department of Social Services)
  - Guest Attendee: Jennifer Kowitt
  - Guests: State Representative, 19<sup>th</sup> District, Tammy Exum
- Minutes from November 9, 2020 meeting were approved.
- Staff Report (Suzanne Oslander – Town ADA Coordinator, Department of Social Services)
  - No new developments to report.
- Old Business
  - None to report.
- New Business
  - A motion was made by Edward Shaham, and seconded by Joe Kolczynski, and unanimously approved to change the May meeting date from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - An inquiry was made by a blind resident regarding the planning of upgrades to audible crossing signals at certain intersections. Greg Sommer, one of the Town Engineers, advised that signal upgrades are currently in the planning and funding stage.
  - Guest Speaker: State Representative, 19<sup>th</sup> District, Tammy Exum spoke about legislative issues pertaining to the Disability Community. Topics discussed included:
    - Telehealth regarding parody of mental health as well as physical health, also insurance reimbursement.
    - Psychological services in schools to help students deal with social/emotional issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Schools have added a social/emotional staff training component to better address the needs of students due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
  - The Bridge Family Centers Services – working with families.
  - Higher Education and Workforce opportunities for persons with disabilities who are past the age of 21.
  - Communication between police and adults with special needs, i.e., mental health issues, autism, etc.
  - No parking in crosshatched spaces adjacent to handicapped parking spaces.
  - Accessible absentee ballot to ensure private and independent voting for those who are blind or have any other print disability.
  - Testifying at legislative hearings on Zoom is now through a lottery system.
- Adjournment 8:05 PM - next meeting date: March 8, 2021 Virtual- WebX at 7:00 PM