

**Eppa, Dianne**

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**From:** Maurice [maujane@verizon.net]

**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2009 1:11 PM

**To:** 'Tom/Eleanor Lyons'; sheilamary13@hotmail.com; 'Carla Trodella'; 'Chip Nutter'; 'Dianne'; 'Jane Holaday'; 'Joshua Martin'; 'Linda Garcia'; 'Shawn Flaherty'; 'Jane Martin Donovan'

**Subject:** minutes Disability Commission Thursday September 17 at Nock School Library at 6:00 PM

The Disability Commission met on Thursday at 6:PM at Nock Middle School in the library

Those in attendance were Jane Donovan, Shawn Flaherty, Chip Nutter, Carla Trodella and prospective member, Sheila Christensen.

1. Due to many professional commitments Shawn felt he had to resign as President of this Commission, but would remain as a member till November to fulfill his term. His resignation was regretfully accepted.

2. Carla thankfully accepted the office of President with a unanimous vote. She has held this office on another disability commission and brings knowledge and confidence to this group.

3. The Committee reviewed the by-laws, principles and procedures, discussed roles of officers and gave Sheila a basic overview of how the Commission operates.

4. Carla was encouraged to follow-up on what appears to be discrimination regarding her volunteer job status at Mass General Hospital. It was suggested that she ask for letters of approval from her three medical doctors at the General.

5. Jane brought up the fact that the Phoenix Room was being used for a Candidates' Night by the Republican City Committee sponsoring this as a non-partisan event to which the public was invited. Since the Phoenix Room is not accessible to anyone in a chair it does seem to be insensitive, although not illegal. The Chamber of Commerce also has its breakfasts there. Since one of the purposes of this commission is to "...work in cooperation with the departments and agencies of the City of Newburyport to bring about maximum participation of people with disabilities..." (Newburyport Disabilities Commission By-Laws, Article 11: Powers and Duties). The Commission will continue to discuss the use of the Phoenix Room.

6. It was suggested that Jane send an e-mail to contact person, Larry Giunta, bringing this to his attention.

Respectfully submitted  
(acting secretary)  
Jane Donovan