

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

61 Durant Terrace

April 7, 2026

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, Phil Cacciola, Joe Bibisi, Richard Pelletier, and Emily McEvoy

Absent: Laurie McFadden, Keith Vinci, and Molly Carta

Staff Present: Catherine Lechowicz – Director of Recreation and Community Services

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:03pm.

3. Public Hearing: None.

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2026, was made by Phil Cacciola and seconded by Richard Pelletier. The motion carries.*

Departmental Reports:

- Joe Bibisi stated that the homeless stayed at the fraternity house in Wesleyan this year. This worked out pretty good. It provided successful accommodations for the homeless this winter. The men stayed on the first floor and the women were on the second floor. In total, there were about 35 people that stayed every night. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola stated that the dispatch center, that is located on Mile Lane, is moving along. He stated that he will keep the committee updated with any new information going forward. A discussion ensued.
- Emily McEvoy stated that it would be a good idea to invite either the co-chairs of the Human Services committee, Senator Lessor, or Gillian Gilcrest to one of our monthly meetings. We should have a discussion regarding legislative proposals that will affect disabled individuals. There has been significant effort to reform long term care insurance policies. Senator Lessor is co-chair on the Human Services committee. Cathy Lechowicz stated that she will reach out to Matt Lessor to see if he would be available to come to next month's meeting. He can discuss legislative updates that could impact Middletown residents. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier stated that he will follow up on the status of the new chiller at City Hall. They are waiting to hear from the contractor that did a lot of damage while putting the roof in at the school. There could be potential legal issues pertaining to the damages. A discussion ensued.
- Cathy Lechowicz stated that the municipal agent has been assisting residents with housing issues. There are residents that are on Section 8 and they are having issues with the landlord keeping the apartment up to Section 8 standards. This is causing many landlords to not renew the lease which is making it difficult for these residents to find affordable housing. In addition, a resident called looking for funding for a ramp and they were referred the Senior Resources. Senior Resources does have grant funding that is available. A discussion ensued.

Old Business:

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Phil Cacciola stated that there are a couple of vacancies at Shepherd Home. We want to make sure that we fill the facility with disabled people. We also need to keep on top of Monarca Place and make sure that any vacancies are filled with disabled people. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment: A motion of adjournment was made by Phil Cacciola and was seconded by Joe Bibisi. The motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.