ADA-Persons with Disabilities Commission

Art Melycher, Chairperson

1. The Commission held meetings over the course of the year as scheduled and posted per policy.
2. Commission members met with individuals from the community that raised concerns regarding special education services and violations and assisted where necessary upon request of said individual.
3. Commission members welcomed the receivership of Winchester Public Schools by the State Department of Education.
4. Commission members Bartley and Kelley attended workshops and ADA, IDEA conferences, networking with Senator Murphy and advocates from Protection and advocacy, among others.
5. Commission members Bartley, Kelley and Melycher attended FOIA hearings in Hartford with Winchester Town Attorney, Kevin Nelligan in response to a community member’s complaint.
   - The Commission acknowledges it is the right of any community member who feels they may have not received documents requested per an FOIA request, however the Commission has always maintained its position that all pertinent documents were shared with said individual. FOIA hearing officers informed the complainant that the Commission members by virtue of their service on the ‘ADA’ Commission would undoubtedly have an ‘advocacy’ component to it that would indeed have an expectancy by parents in the community that their information would remain confidential under FERPA and/or HIPPA.
   - The complainant was also informed by the FOIA hearing officer that Commission members are allowed to have email communication that may likely include details about Winchester Public Schools that would be of a personal nature and thus so the complainant was NOT entitled to view them.
   - The ADA Commission would like to extend their thanks to the Town of Winchester for their assistance in resolving this matter.
6. A walk through of schools under the purview of the Winchester Public Schools revealed minor deficits and a list of corrections was issued to the receiver.
7. A Commission meeting was scheduled and held on September 7 with guests Robert Travaglini and Special Education Director Seamus Cullinan. Both parties failed to show, with no cancellation and no communication to date. This was a disappointment to the community.

Current Commissioners:
Art Melycher, Chairman
Hayley Kelley
Carmelina Connole, Vice-Chairman  
Raymond Neil  
Cheryl Bartley, Secretary

ADA Members can be contacted by email at: ada@townofwinchester.org.