



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair
Councilor William H. Dwight
Councilor Eugene Tacy

MINUTES

Monday, January 14, 2013

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

1. **Members present/absent: Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Councilor Gene Tacy, Council President Bill Dwight**
2. **Meeting Called to Order: 5:00 pm**
3. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting: Councilor Marianne LaBarge. This meeting will be one hour in length due to previous room booking. Ruth McGrath is videotaping the meeting for Adam Cohen, Winning Writers.**
4. **Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2012. Approved: Councilor Tacy and Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Dwight abstained.**
5. **City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair, will speak about the agenda for the Month of February 2013:**
Peg Keller, Housing and Community Development Planner, City of Northampton will speak on the following:
 - Status of CDBG Funding Award
 - City Action Plan priorities
 - Scheduling Public Services Interviews

Councilor LaBarge reminded the Committee to bring their schedulers to the February meeting to schedule CDBG interviewing dates and times.

6. **5:02 p.m. – Tori Eklund, Chair, Northampton Committee on Disabilities**
Susan McCreary, Vice Chair, Northampton Committee on Disabilities
Ruth McGrath, Secretary, Northampton Committee on Disabilities
Roy Martin, Member, Northampton Committee on Disabilities
ADA Coordinator Patte Shaughnessy, Northampton Committee on Disabilities

Tori spoke about the progress of the Braille and Large Print Menu Program, giving the history of the project. Tori will be at City Council on Thursday, January 17th to do a presentation. She will announce the names of the restaurants that are participating.

7. **5:06 p.m. – Lola Kelso, Executive Assistant, Northampton BID**

Lola showed the Committee the actual large print and Braille menus from Local Burger. The initial participating restaurants are: Fitzwilly's, Local Burger, Mama Iguana's, Paul and Elizabeth's, Siam Square, Sierra Grille, Pizza Paradiso and Spoleto. There was a discussion about a press release and a publicity event to announce the project.

The BID has been funding the menus.

8. **Public Comment: No Public Comment**

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Tacy requested a presentation from Steve Connors, Veterans' Services Director, regarding: funding cuts. Councilor LaBarge had stated that she was having difficulty contacting Steve Connors, Veterans' Services Director.

10. **ADJOURN:** 5:46 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.