

Disabilities Network of Eastern CT
19 Ohio Ave.
Norwich, CT 06360

Sept. 12, 2023
5:30 PM - 7:00PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

On screen:

K. Pellerin, President
S. Baecker, Vice President
E. Petrik, Board Member
R. Topper, Potential Board Member
E. McBride, Guest
S. Heddle, Executive Director – DNEC
G. Molly Cole, Executive Director SILC/ Guest

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by K. Pellerin.
Erin McBride was introduced to attendees. Erin is eager to learn about DNEC and will be attending meetings with an interest in becoming a Board member.

II. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of minutes:

On a motion made by S. Baecker and seconded by E. Petrik the minutes of May 9, 2023 were approved as written.

IV. SILC/SPIL

Guest speaker, Moly Cole, Exec. Dir. of SILC, explained that the next State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was being written in collaboration with the five Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The plan is updated every three years with the purpose of developing policies and practices designed to support individual with disabilities, assisting them to fully live their lives.

The Board and guests were asked important questions that will help guide in the development of this plan. An example of the questions asked – name the biggest challenge that we see as a detriment to one living independently in our communities...travel, housing, medical availability were just some of the topics discussed. A very active discussion followed.

V. Election of members:

Renee Topper was voted in as a new board member. K. Pellerin made the motion to approve. E. Petrick seconded. The motion carried.

VI: Election of DNEC Board of Officers:

Presented slate, as approved at the June 13th annual meeting.

K. Pellerin – President

E. Petrik – Vice president

S. Baecker – Secretary

K. Pellerin made the motion to approve. Renee Toper seconded – motion carried.

VII. Executive Directors Report:

Highlights:

- A. Sheyla has been terminated. Sharon plans to seek a replacement in Nov/Dec.
- B. SILC annual meeting this Sept. 27th – K. Pellerin, and some staff attending with Sharon. Kim Smith is DNEC's representative at SILC.
- C. Staff appreciation day is Nov 15, and will include Painting with Pam and lunch. Senior Resources will be joining DNEC staff that day.
- D. Sharon has worked with Greg DeFrank, Accountant, to give staff bonuses for this year.
- E. Beth Vargus continues to work on attaining grants for DNEC consumers
- F. Kim Smith will be promoted to Program Director by the end of Sept this year
- G. Raises for staff were discussed.
- H. Approximately 100 people attended the Open House in June, including Erin McBride who expressed an interest in DNEC and was invited to attend our meetings.
- I. Conflict of interest forms to be sent to BoD, with a request to sign and return promptly.
- J. Discussed our upcoming comedy night fundraiser.

See attached report.

VIII. President's Report:

Highlights:

- A. Continuing to grow Board membership growth.
- B. Sharon's evaluation will be completed during October.
- C. Our accountant, Greg DeFrank, will join us for the October meeting.

IX: Old Business:

- A. Continued discussion regarding next steps to develop an investment policy.
- B. The 2 Appeal letters that were previously reviewed and approved will be sent In Nov/Dec.

X: New Business:

XI Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7 PM

S. Baecker - Secretary _____ **Date** _____