

Metuchen Accessibility Committee

Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2022

Present: Audra Sbarra (chair), Jason Delia (Borough Council liaison), Tara Matise, Avnee Patel. Unable to attend: Todd Pagel, Michael Geschlecht. No members of the public attended.

1. Haunted Halloween: MAC members will host a “peace pod” (quiet space) at the borough Haunted Halloween event on October 29. MAC Volunteers will man the pod.
2. Future of the Committee: The committee concluded that lack of membership and other limitations have made it difficult to make meaningful contributions to the community. Therefore, the committee will end after this year. There were some other organizations that were identified which were not an option at this time. The Committee discussed ideas for how to best address accessibility issues going forward and decided to invite several of the other borough committees and commissions to add accessibility to their mission statements. Further the committee agreed to ask someone on other Borough committees to serve as the “voice of accessibility.” The chair voiced that it is important to be involved in the planning efforts instead of being reactive to best serve the needs of the accessibility community in Metuchen. The chair and Tara Matise will work on communications to begin the invitation extension to other committees. The committee thanked Audra Sbarra for her leadership and dedication to the group, and Jason Delia for his outstanding service as liaison to Borough Council. The group will gather one last time to celebrate its accomplishments and assess whether the transitioning efforts are working.