



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK  
ABILITIES COUNCIL

*"Embracing the power of 'We' by including everyone"*

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 14, 2009**  
**Covino's Restaurant**  
*In conjunction with the Lions Club*

**Members present:** Debbie Druker, Marge Griscti, Valerie Molnar

**Secretary:** Nancy Krauss

*Meeting commenced at 7: 12 pm*

The Abilities Council met in conjunction with the Lions Club to explore joint volunteer/action opportunities. The Lions Club commenced their business portion of the meeting at 7:12pm and the Abilities Council observed.

Ann Marie, member of the Lions Club, spoke about a potential partnership with the NBAC. Marge shared some of the work she and Robin have done on the State level with issues such as Danielle's Law, Stephen's Law, and similar legislation. Marge proceeded to inform the Lions Club about Disabilities Awareness Day 2009 and the plans to continue that even in 2010. Marge shared the need of the NBAC to reach out to more of the disabled population to attend Disabilities Awareness Day.

Debbie Druker talked about partnering with the Lions Club on Disabilities Awareness Day in 2010. The Lions Club was excited about the opportunity to have a booth in order to give out information. They will explore the possibility of having someone at their booth to give brief eye exams to attendees.

Walter Endler, member of the Lions Club, spoke about the voluntary registration of disabled residents in town to inform emergency services about their situations. Walt has spoken with the Plainfield Police Department and Office of Emergency Management about this program. Plainfield has the same CAD and QED system and they have used this information successfully on several occasions. Walt further shared that Middlesex County is just about to launch a county-wide registry of disabled residents which will be available to various communities and governmental agencies. Walt informed the group that so far, about 300 residents have turned in the forms. The forms will be updated yearly. Forms which are not updated will remain in the system and labeled "dormant". The plan is to check on the "dormant" addresses to check their status.

Marge shared information about The Abilities Project. She told the Lions Club that acquiring these assistive devices was not as difficult as reaching the residents which can utilize these items. A suggestion was made to add this information to the form disabled residents receives to register with the Township and that should reach a larger audience. Walter agreed and will pursue that prior to the next mailing of that form.

Valerie spoke of the S2400 Reading Disabilities Task Force being formed at the State level. This group will recommend standards, screening practices, proper testing procedures and early intervention plans.

George Shamy, Lions Club member, discussed the ways their group helps the community. Specifically, he mentioned the Embrace Kids Foundation, based in Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. George shared a letter from the director of this foundation asking sponsorship and volunteers for their annual holiday event which hosts approximately 600 seriously ill children and their families. The Lions Club asked if any members of the NBAC would like to volunteer, even for an hour, with their group at this event on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Walter Endler, Township OEM Coordinator and Lions Club member at (732) 247-0922, x 367 if you would like to volunteer.

It was generally agreed that these two organizations have multiple opportunities to partner to better serve the community. The Abilities Council invited the Lions Club to a future meeting, and the Lions Club likewise invited the NBAC to future gatherings of their organization.

*The NBAC portion of the meeting concluded at 8:15pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Krauss  
Secretary  
North Brunswick Abilities Council

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 pm**