

Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**SPECIAL MEETING Minutes**

February 18, 2026, 10:00am – 11:00am

Location: Zoom

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE					
Member Name	Attendance	Voting Member?	Member Name	Attendance	Voting Member?
Samantha Fenderson	P	No	Jessica Cyr	P	Yes
Diane Frigon	E	No	Andrew Smith	P	Yes
Tom Newman	P	Yes	Molly Thompson	P	Yes
Brendan Williams	A	Yes	Rebeca Ball-Curry	P	Yes
Mary Le Blanc	A	Yes	Joshua Weideman	E	Yes
Mel Clarrage	P	Yes	Lynn Feely	A	Yes
John Shattuck	P	Yes			

Attendance Key: P = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent without excuse.

**Public Attendees:** Julie Hovey

**Minutes Recorder:** Jessica Cyr

**Approved**

**Meeting Purpose:** Discussion of recent Facebook activity to allow questions and sharing information in an open meeting format.

Meeting started with a reminder of chat turned off except for communicating to the meeting co-hosts if needed, using raise hand to speak. Also, Jess explained how she is hosting the meeting since Brendan as Chair typically would do this. Since the topic for discussion is Brendan’s Facebook post, he is required to recuse himself due to Conflict of Interest and then the responsibility falls to Vice Chair. Jess shared that this meeting called by Vice Chair and the Chair recusal is consistent with the SILC bylaws and Rehab Act rules as was verified by ILTA.

Jess shared background about seeing the Facebook post on the site “Empowerment Forum for Mainers with a Disability”. Shared the transcriber’s original notes, shown by Brendan on FB, and the corrected version. Jess explained the remaining questions such as if there were 2 FB posts or 1, how many shares, comments, etc all info available to Brendan as the account Administrator, but that he has not provided when asked. Rebecca recommends that Brendan make a new FB post explaining the error and she believes the FB post was not on Brendan’s “personal” Facebook page as his email said, but only on the public Facebook page “Empowerment Forum for Mainers with a Disability”. Sam recommended SILC members have direct communication with the person as the best way to address something, not posting online and SILC should discuss at the next SILC Council meeting. Sam also brought up the concern about back-and-forth email communication. Jess told all about ILTA guidance on that and will work on it. Jess mentioned the need to discuss social media at a regular SILC Council meeting since this FB account exists and SILC did not give authorization or set up parameters for conduct. Molly thinks the FB post was online around

1/31 or 2/1. Jess first saw it on 2/4. Molly confirmed that DRM was sent an apology from Brendan (as Jess requested). Rebecca brought up setting up future SILC policies and procedures, which the ACL/OILP Targeted Review also is looking for.

**Future Actions:**

1-SILC Council to discuss- member direct communication as recommended, best first communication, not on the web.

2-Email changes so there is no longer back-and-forth, which defeats public meeting rules and could appear like a meeting through email, not allowed.

3- SILC Council to discuss- Social media, Current Facebook page "Empowerment Forum for Mainers with a Disability"

4- SILC Council to discuss-SILC policies and procedures, beyond the bylaws which are the SILC handbook