

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 MINUTES

Board Members:
Present: Barbara Tennison, Crystal Evans, Lynn Vaillancourt, Robin Torpey
Remote Call In: Jennifer Shaw Not in Attendance: Judy Coletta
ADA Coordinator Present: Kristen Zechello
Town Council Representative: Not in attendance
Meeting Opened: 6:00 PM Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 PM
Prior Months Minutes: May 5 th , June 6 th , July 11 th – Motion to approve; all were in favor
July & August phone calls received: Resident looking for guidance for mold removal; Robin forwarded the call onto Kristen
Budget: HP Parking Fines Revenue as of August 8/29/16: \$ 47,502.55

Town Buildings

Transition Plan: Kristen stated that she received a request to check on the Highland School Playground regarding accessibility. Kristen has been working with the town's Building inspector(s) and Parks & Rec. to make sure all playgrounds' equipment, surfaces and routes in and around equipment are accessible.

Town Hall/Old Thayer Library: A meeting is planned for Sept. 13th with the Mayor, Russ Forsberg, Kristen, Christine Stickney and Barbara to review the board's concerns with the plan as it stands today.

Daugherty Gym: No update

Braintree Athletic Complex: The complex's parking lot is on the Planning Board's agenda for September 13th.

Thayer Library: Follow up to the Trustees meeting on March 21, 2016 for the hiring of a consultant to evaluate the library with respect to access, i.e. interior, furniture, contents, equipment, books, bathroom, conference rooms, counters and exterior of building. Was not discussed.

Town Parks & Recreation

Conservation Land access at Eaton Pond: Barbara will contact Kevin Bears

Parks & Recreation: Kristen spoke with Nelson Chin regarding installing accessible portable toilets where portable toilets are now installed. Nelson stated that they will be installed. Where? Not discussed.

Kristen will be involved in the weekly DPW staff meetings with Chris Griffin, Parks & Rec., Water & Sewer, Highway, Water & Treatment and BELD), as well as the monthly Traffic & Safety Committee meetings with representatives from the Fire and Police Depts., and Highway.

Streets & Roads

Engineering/ \$10M Capital Plan: Road work continuing throughout the Fall. Kristen asked that the board be cognizant of the work being done throughout the town and if you see something that doesn't look right, let Kristen know.

SeeClickFix App/Snow Removal.: No update.

Miscellaneous

Advertising of HP funds: Crystal suggested, we as a board host a speaker night. The board further discussed possibly joining forces with SEPAC on hosting speakers.

Wheelchair Accessible Taxi/Uber/MBTA: So far as we know. The state of Arizona is one of the first states to offer Uber accessible rides for individuals in wheel chairs. DOT has created a Community Transit Grant Program.

Social Media Campaign: The board discussed teaming up with the police in putting together an initiative to educate people either via pictures in the newspapers and/or video on face book in order to post the various ways in which we could educate the public on how to keep the path of travel on sidewalks free of barriers, i.e. parked vehicles on sidewalks, rubbish barrels blocking the path of travel, parked vehicles at curb cuts and ramps, leaves/branches hanging over onto a sidewalk, making trash pickup drivers aware of not placing empty barrels haphazardly back onto sidewalks.....

Marshall's Department Store Complaint: No update

Community Preservation Funds-Affordable Housing:

Kristen will research to find out how much money is set aside for affordable housing, what projects have been completed throughout the town utilizing these funds since its inception, and what is the current balance? No update

Mass. Fallen Heroes Event & Town Hall, May 14th – Per Kristen, a committee, including the town's Attorney, Dept. heads and Kristen was formed to create a contract for individuals to follow when leasing or using school property.

NEW

Sidewalk/Curb Cut/Ramp Complaint: There have been numerous complaints regarding vehicles parking at the corner of Hall & Washington streets that block the curb cut & ramp which in turn blocks a clear path for anyone trying to access the sidewalk. Barbara & Kristen have set up a meeting with the Mayor, Chris Griffin & Chief Jenkins for Wed, September 7th in hopes of resolving this issue.

Morrison School – Kristen followed up with the Superintendent of Schools regarding the lack of an accessible entrance to the lower level of classrooms at the school. It was proposed by the Superintendent that an elevator be installed. Kristen will be following up.

New laptop for the board: Barbara made a motion to have a lap top purchased for the board. Motion was approved by Crystal, Robin, Lynn and Jennifer

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2016 – FLETCHER HALL

(BT/RT 09/21/2016)