

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2018

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Katie Farrell, Andrea Mountain, Ed Lang, Sue Harris

Guests Present: Preston and Candy Ford

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Handicapped Accessibility to the Water – Preston and Candy Ford attended the meeting to discuss a proposed project to improve Harbor access at a location off Nahant Street next to the Corinthian Yacht Club, where the Town plans to raise the height of the existing seawall to meet a neighboring, privately-owned seawall. This project is being privately funded. Mr. Ford wished to explore the possibility of improving public access to the rocky beach over the new wall and making it handicapped accessible. After much discussion, the Commission agreed to work with Mr. Ford on identifying the best location for handicapped accessibility to the water in Marblehead and obtaining required Town approvals and possible partial ADA funding for such a project. Mr. Ford will attend another Commission meeting in early 2019 to further discuss. Meanwhile, Laurie agreed to explore possible funding from the Trustees of the Reservation, which now owns both Gerry and Brown's Islands, and Sue agreed to look into facilities at Little Harbor and possible ways to improve access at that location. Laurie also will post questions on the Commission's Facebook page asking for input on the types of water access disabled residents would like to see.

2. Complete Streets Program – Ed reported that Jason Silva, Town Manager, asked him to serve as the Commission's representative to the Complete Streets Committee. Ed attended the Committee's first meeting and reported that its members are very sensitive to accessibility issues and aware that all projects it undertakes must meet accessibility requirements. The Committee's next step is to develop and prioritize a list of projects it will undertake. The Commission agreed that one or more other Commission members will attend the Committee's meetings in Ed's absence over the winter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Harris, Member