

**Marblehead Disabilities Commission  
Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2019**

**Members Present:** Laurie Blaisdell, Katie Farrell, Andrea Mountain, Caroline Curtis, Cheryl LaLond, Sue Harris

**Guests Present:** Preston Ford, Marla Meyer (Outreach Coordinator, Council on Aging)

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

1. Minutes from the February 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Laurie sent letters to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board regarding renovations to 139 Pleasant Street and Abbott Hall as discussed and approved at the last meeting.
3. Handicapped Water Access. Laurie spoke with Mark Souza, Marblehead Harbormaster, regarding the possibility of renovations to the existing public concrete ramp into the water next to the Marblehead Lobster Company. He stated that, because the water off this ramp is designated a lobster sanctuary by the EPA, any changes to current access would require extensive review and likely take a long time for approval if it would be granted at all. He also said that he had tried to get public funding for better access at this location, but was denied because of the lack of parking in the area. Marblehead already has planned repairs to the existing ramp.

Souza is amenable to creating accessible water access at the Harbormaster's office location. Laurie and Souza also discussed the fact that although some of the Harbormaster's office facilities (shower/laundry) are accessible through the back door, there is no keypad or button to open that door. Souza offered to come to a meeting in May to further discuss these issues, and the Commission agreed to schedule the May meeting for Thursday, May 6 at 4:15 p.m., which fits with his schedule. Souza also agreed to further look into what he believes to be a requirement that making any water access accessible would require that all Town-owned water access be accessible. He also believes that any such requirement would not apply if privately fund projects.

4. Complete Streets. The Commission discussed the status of Marblehead's Complete Streets project. The Complete Streets Committee recently made public a list of 22 possible projects to include in its plan due to the state Department of Transportation by April 1. Marla Meyer, Outreach Coordinator for the Council on Aging, discussed with the Commission priorities important to seniors, such as "talking" walk signals and insuring that sidewalks are shoveled. She said that the public may submit input on the proposed priorities before its next meeting on March 20. After discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to send a letter to Becky Cutting, Town Planner and a member of the Committee, listing our top priorities – making sidewalks more accessible, prompt repair of potholes in the streets, particularly those in areas where there is no sidewalk or the sidewalk is not accessible, and insuring that pedestrian walk lights are clearly visible to drivers on all sides of an intersection. Sue will draft the letter, and Laurie will review and submit it.

5. Safe Routes to Schools. Sustainable Marblehead is working on implementing the Safe Routes to Schools in Marblehead. As a member of the Education Action Group, which is working with the Transportation Action Group on implementing the Safe Routes to Schools program, Sue offered to be the liaison from the Disabilities Commission to this effort. The Commission voted unanimously to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

**May Meeting:** Thursday, May 6 at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Harris, Member