

Marblehead Disabilities Commission Meeting Minutes for April, 2019

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Katie Farrell, Caroline Curtis, Cheryl LaLonde

Guests Present: **Mark Souza**, Preston Ford, James Zisson, Jennifer Schaeffner

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

1. Minutes from the March 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. **Handicapped Water Access.** Mark Souza and the Commission discussed alternate locations for handicapped water access for boating in Marblehead. The location of the Harbor Master's Office at 9 Ferry Lane and the dock at the end of Village Street were mentioned as possible locations for handicap water access. Laurie stated that Ferry Lane would be preferable due to access to Handicap Restroom and parking. Mark mentioned an Arc Ramp which Beverly had installed near the old McDonalds. Mark also stated that if we install a ramp to the Harbor we would not be responsible to make all public water access points handicapped accessible. Several commission members stated they would go to Beverly to see this ramp. Preston stated he would contact Mark to see if he could be of assistance with getting a similar Ramp to Marblehead Harbor near the Harbor Master's Office. The commission decided to see if we could research grants to help defray the costs of this ramp.
3. **Bell School.** Jennifer Schaeffner and Jim Zisson gave the commission a presentation of the new Bell School. Laurie mentioned we would like to be involved in the next phase of design for the Bell School. She mentioned her daughter would be willing to help make sure the School is truly handicapped accessible. The commission mentioned several issues we have had in the past in relationship to handicap access. The doorbell at the High School, the location of the handicap parking spots at the high school which is not near the front door. The location of handicap spots at Village and the current Bell school have also been an issue. This is in regards to having to wait in the handicap spot for the buses to leave once a child is dropped off. We had concerns with having handicap students or parents not entering at the main entrance. All students should enter with their age group.
4. **Complete Streets.** Laurie gave the list of all sidewalks and street repairs we could document in 3 days to the complete streets group to send to the state. It was discuss how the Complete Streets Group chose the rail trail as their highest priority. The commission would prefer the sidewalks were fixed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

June Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Farrell, Member